

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Ladies Devon Golf League
Held at Fingle Glen Golf Club
Monday 9th October 2023 at 11am**

Present: Bigbury, Boringdon Park, Churston, Dainton Park, Exminster, Great Torrington, Holsworthy, Honiton, Ilfracombe, Saunton, Staddon Heights, Stover, The Warren, Thurlestone, Tiverton, Woodbury. Park.

Welcome and Introduction: Sue Gurney, Past Lady Captain of Dainton Park, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting on behalf of their current Lady Captain Jo Fisher, who was unable to attend.

Apologies for absence: Janice Eaton, League Organiser for Dainton Park, sent her apologies. Apologies were also received from Wrangaton and Stover.

Presentation of Kay Sharp Salver and Runners-Up Cup:

Sadly Wrangaton, the winning club, closed a few days after the final so there was no-one to accept the Salver.

Sue congratulated Saunton who were Runners-Up (the Cup had been presented after the final at Dainton).

Adoption of 2022 AGM Minutes : Sue recommended clarification of the wording of the section about the semi-finals and final so that it was in line with the 2023 Rules (4.2) This was agreed. The minutes were then adopted.
Proposer: Louise Brown (Saunton) Seconder: Judith Lungmuss(Thurlestone)

Matters Arising : None

Report from Dainton Park (written by Janice Eaton and read by Karen Cole):

Good morning ladies,

I am sorry not to be there in person, I blame my husband for picking our holiday dates.

When I agreed to host I had no idea what to expect, and never thought I would get to the year end. However, here we are and we have had a great year with quality golf and new friendships made. These are the basic principles of the Devon League and ones which I really wanted to promote this year. You will get a flavour of that with our proposals which in my opinion are important in driving the Devon League forward.

We had 18 teams across Devon competing this season culminating in the semis and finals held at Dainton in September which I hope everyone enjoyed. I know that we enjoyed hosting it. We did not experience the heat of 2022 and we got more rain than we expected but we got through the season unscathed with no major issues. Thank you to all the team captains who supported us this year.

The semi finals were played between Wrangaton and Ilfracombe, and Saunton and Staddon Heights and were closely fought with teams heading off back down the first, some lovely golf being played. Wrangaton and Saunton eventually got through to the finals for the second year running. The finals were played the following week in fabulous weather with everyone in good spirits. It was a very even match from the start and halfway round the scores were level so it was anyone's game to win. Again for the second year running, Wrangaton narrowly beat Saunton to win the Salver. Many congratulations to Wrangaton. Well done also to Saunton, our Runners-Up, and to Staddon Heights and Ilfracombe for winning their divisions. This turned out to be a very poignant victory as just a few days later we heard the sad news that Wrangaton had closed. We do hope that the Wrangaton Ladies find new homes very soon. We would welcome them to Dainton and I'm sure all of our Clubs would do the same.

I could not have got through this year without the support of my fantastic Dainton family. I would like to thank our meeting opener, Sue Gurney, our treasurer, Julie Warner, League Team Captain Sue Elson, Sue and Sue for checking the handicaps and doing the cards, and all the Dainton Ladies who played and helped host.

Thanks also to Trish Holmes at Churston for her support and to Frances Lewis Palmer the Web Organiser.

Last but not least thanks to my sidekick and best mate Karen Cole for taking my place today. I will be paying for this for evermore! Finally, thank you to everyone in the League who supported me and made my job easier.

I look forward to seeing you all in 2024 and will continue to support the Devon League as it moves forward and our friends at Exminster who are taking over next year.

I would like to end by asking you to please consider all the proposals carefully as in my opinion they are important in driving the league forward.

Regards,

Janice

Notice of Withdrawal :

Fingle Glen (have chosen Sheelah Creasy instead)

Portmore (not fulfilling as they play the same clubs in other leagues)

Statement of Accounts: Mrs Julie Warner, Dainton Treasurer 2023

A balance of £754.18 was received from Churston Golf Club and from this amount Mrs F. Lewis-Palmer was paid the sum of £216.26 for the website, and Fingle Glen the amount of £204 for room hire and coffees.

This left a balance of £333.92

This year we have only 16 clubs playing in the Devon League. It is very sad news regarding the closure of Wrangaton but good news that Stover are joining. The total fees we have received from the 16 clubs amounts to £320.00 so we have a balance of £653.92.

The last increase in entry fees was in 2016 when the domain fee was £43.14 and the room hire was £60.00. This year the domain fee is £203.49 plus £60.00 for Frances Lewis-Palmer who deals with the website (and who has kept her fee to a minimum). We have not yet received the invoice from Fingle Glen but the quote received was £2.20 for tea/coffee (usually about 45 ladies) and £60 per hour for room hire. (It is for this reason that we are asking you to adjourn to the bar area to arrange next years fixtures).

The tea/coffee and biscuits at Dainton cost £212.50 and the engraving of the trophy for 2022 and 2023 cost £15.00. We have not charged for any photocopying or for provision of water and biscuits at the semi-finals and final.

This leaves a balance of £162.93 which we hope will cover Fingle Glen's invoice.

(Julie Warner 9th October 2023)

Proposals :

**1. Proposal by Dainton Park GC
Seconded by Tiverton GC
(See 1.1 under General Rules)**

'There should be an increase in club fees from £20 to £40 per year to cover increased costs, website, and to provide sufficient funds for the host club to provide extras to enhance the semis and finals so that it feels special for the teams that progress.'

Speaking to this proposal Julie Warner explained that the League does not receive any outside funding so all expenses must come out of money received in entry fees. This year Fingle Glen and website costs were well over £400 meaning there was hardly any left over.

The proposal was put to the vote by a show of hands and was carried unanimously.

**2. Proposal by Dainton Park GC
Seconded by Tiverton GC
(See 2.1 under Responsibilities of the Host Club/Organiser)**

'That the current 1 year term as host be changed to a 2 year term but rolling with the next host club. In effect a club would host the League for 1 year and then give 1 year of support to the incoming club with their first year, and so on, providing continuity and friendly support.'

The general feeling was that in the second year the door should always be open for the new host to ask for help and to discuss concerns. This was agreed unanimously.

**3. Proposal by Tiverton GC
Seconded by Dainton Park GC**

'That we revert to playing clubs from all over Devon, not just the local area. We all enjoyed 2023 and played some great matches but feel that if we play the same teams next year we would not get the opportunity to play the variety of clubs in the county, which is surely the whole point of Devon League.'

The main reason for playing teams in the same area was to save fuel costs but our experience this year was that the closest team was nearly an hour away so it made no difference.

This is also part of the reason why Portmore have withdrawn this year.'

Thurlestone pointed out that their ladies fund raise to pay their travel expenses. A debate followed and the proposal was then put to a vote.

It was carried by 12 votes to 3 meaning that there would be a random draw to decide playing groups for 2024.

**4. Proposal by Exminster
Seconded by Dainton Park**

(See 3.6, Responsibilities of the Host Club/League Organizer

'The format shall be singles matchplay with a stroke allowance of full difference between the course handicaps. The maximum handicap index is 35.0 with no lower limit.

Insert: A player whose WHS index is higher than 35.0 is eligible to play but must play off the maximum handicap index of 35.0.

This was put to a vote and carried unanimously.

Any Other Business:

The reason for holding the League AGM at Fingle Glen is due to its central location. As Fingle Glen have withdrawn this year Exminster pointed out that their club is easily accessible and that they have new facilities. They will make enquiries with a view to holding the meeting at Exminster next year.

Hand Over : Dainton Park handed over to Exminster, who took over the meeting.

Draw for 2024: A random draw was carried out by Exminster.

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
Churston	Thurlestone	Ilfracombe	The Warren
Stover	Saunton	Great Torrington	Holsworthy
Dainton	Honiton	Exminster	Bigbury
Boringdon	Tiverton	Woodbury Park	Staddon Heights

Date of next AGM : to be arranged

The meeting closed at 12.00 midday.