

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
HARWOOD LADIES' SECTION
ON SUNDAY, 23RD January 2022**

PRESENT: 28 members

Before the meeting was opened a minute's silence was observed in memory of two of Harwood's Past Lady Captains and Past Lady Presidents who had passed away during the year; Mrs Joan Nicholson and Mrs Sybil Poulson

1. LADY CAPTAIN'S OPENING REMARKS

Lorna Hart welcomed everyone to the meeting. After a slow start to 2021 because of the pandemic, life became more hectic as the year wore on. As Harwood's lady representative, Lorna had attended many golf days, dinners, coffee mornings, meetings in the Bury and Bolton areas. Both Covid and the weather played its part in disrupting fixtures which had to be navigated by Katharine. A successful picnic had been enjoyed with improving weather at Hill Valley. There had been two weddings during the year, April Grime, the current choir mistress of Harwood Harmonies, and Irene Wood. Congratulations to them both. Feedback received by Lorna from her contacts outside the Club was that our course and greens are amazing and the club is known for its friendliness. It's been a busy year and she commented on her pride in all the ladies. A highlight in the year had been the Children's Christmas Party which Lady Captain attended as an Elf.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

Clare MacLeod	Kate Knox	Marilyn Watson	Betty Yates
Marion Nolan	Carol Brooking	Pauline Teasdale	Trish Mackie
Wendy Gudger	Kathryn Taylor	Pauline Barlow	Rosie Lund
Kathy Hardman			

3. MINUTES OF AGM HELD ON 7TH March via Zoom

The minutes had been circulated and were agreed as a correct record.

Proposed: Judith Simms **Seconded:** Dawn Eastland

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

Anne Oakes commented that this had been her first year as Treasurer. Thanks were given to the Committee and particularly to Janet for their support as she learnt the job.

There had been a few difficulties with the bank because of cheques that allegedly weren't completed in accordance with the mandate, when they were. It was hoped these are now resolved.

At the start of this year the balance in the bank was £2,140.68 of which £410 was ring fenced as Canopy hire. The previous treasurer had commented that we would need to look to some fund-raising ideas as our lives gradually got back to normal as we moved through 2021. In terms of golf normality did start to return, which allowed us to have a number of events, as in previous years.

We had 3 successful golf events, the first one being the May Open, with 16 teams playing and earning us a profit of £194.00. In August, 40 people competed in the Lady Captain's Invitation Day, this produced a small deficit of £149.38. The next event, the Shotgun in September catered for 15 teams and brought in another profit of £176.50.

We then had two social events in October and November, which were our main fundraisers – the Blind Auction and the Ladies Coffee Morning and they brought in £223.05 and £854.66 respectively.

Our final event of the year was our Christmas Dinner, which 56 people attended, and produced a deficit £127.37

The other source of income came from the sale of Christmas hampers - thanks to everyone for their contributions for the hampers and a special thanks to Dawn and her helpers for making up the hampers, which brought in £303.

Total income for the year amounted to £5,480.71 and was offset by expenditure for prizes, catering for golf and social events, teams catering, donations, golf affiliation fees, ribbons for the canopy, gifts and flowers, locker room keys, honorariums, postage and stationery and junior rules books, amounting to £5,364.56

All of this resulted in us finishing up with an asset balance of £2,256.83 of which £210 is ring fenced as canopy hire.

I would like to thank Maureen for auditing the accounts.

Judith Simms enquired over the purchase of “Junior Rules Books”. It was explained that these had been purchased on behalf of newer members who might be interested in a simplified version of the rules.

6. **COMPETITION SECRETARY’S REPORT**

Katharine Jones started her report by thanking everyone for their support during another difficult year. The **Harwood 2021** season did not start as normal with the Captain’s Drive In due to snow. However, we managed to end the year with a Drive Out instead.

We did manage to begin our Competitions in April, even though we were socially distancing, and completed our knock outs on time and also our Ladies Championship/ Nicholson Trophy. Rain, heat and thunderstorms affected some of our fixtures, including Lady Captain’s Prize, but all our major competitions were successfully squeezed into the season with winners being from a wide cross section of our ladies’ membership.

One of our end of season prizes, the England Golf Medal, had not been able to be presented so Katharine did this at the AGM. England Golf now do the calculations on the WHS Platform and publish the results in January. The prize for the best 4 score differentials over the 2021 season was won by Elaine Henderson. She is now entitled to go forward to the North Region Championships at Brancepeth Castle, Durham on 22nd June 2022. Well done Elaine and everyone else who won a competition this year. Elaine Henderson gave a short acceptance speech and thanked everyone for their support.

We also managed to hold our 3 Open Events, although dates had to be changed several times. Our May Open Team Event took place under the Rule of 6 but was very successful. Thanks to Vicky and Janet for their hard work as organisers. Lady Captain’s Invitation Day, another successful event, was moved several times and ended up taking place in August, instead of being played in June, The room looked beautiful and I am very grateful to all the ladies who helped on the day with score cards, flowers, table settings, raffle and also the caterers and bar staff. A real team effort. Our September Shotgun was very ably organised by Marion Anderson together with helpers from the Committee. The afternoon tea and the golf were very enjoyable. Also, thanks go to everyone who supported any of our events by putting in a team to play.

It was good to see that most of the **external competitions** took place this year, some being carried over from 2020. Whether ladies entered as an individual or as part of a team and whether they were a winner or just enjoyed playing another course with good company, all are always representing Harwood and putting us on the golfing map. We are also supporting ladies' and girls' golf and, in many cases, wider charities.

Katharine did not intend to list all our entries as they have been reported many times before. Suffice to say we took part in competitions in Lancashire, East Lancashire, Manchester, Bolton, Bury and some National Competitions organised by England Golf, Ping and the Mail on Sunday. However, Katharine could not submit this AGM report without mentioning our successes in the Bolton Ladies' Championship and also our Shield teams.

In the Bolton Ladies' Championship both Clare and Amelia qualified for the semi-finals where they played each other, with Amelia winning through to the finals. There, she fought hard and only lost on the 18th hole.

Both our Handicap and Bronze teams won their regional groups in the Shield matches and qualified for the Divisional Finals at Lytham Green Drive. Our Handicap team unfortunately could not beat Rossendale so their run ended there, but still a very commendable result. Well done, Ladies. Our Bronze team beat both Wilpshire and Darwen in their Divisional Finals and went on to the County Finals at Knott End. In an exciting day's golf, our ladies beat both Westhoughton and Morecambe to become the Bronze Shield County Champions 2021. A great achievement for our little club! Thanks go to the organisers of all our teams, Clare, Jan, Sue Docherty and to everyone who took part and helped with the organisation in any of our external competitions.

On Monday November 2nd 2020, our Congu handicap system switched over to WHS. What a nightmare! We thought we would never get to grips with it.....and we were nearly right! However, slowly, everything is becoming clear and 15 months on we can hardly remember life before it. We have adapted to a Handicap Index, Course handicap, Playing handicap, Handicap Allowances, General Play (or Casual) Rounds, and most importantly, our own personal Dashboard showing our last 20 scores, of which only 8 count. We are ready on the morning after a competition to see if at Midnight, our handicap index had changed on the graph. We are becoming less surprised when after a diabolical round our handicap goes down, or after playing out of our skins, our handicap stays the same, or worse still, goes up. It all depends on the scores on the Dashboard. Having watched the system carefully over the last year and in discussion with other Clubs and national forums, the Committee have decided to make an adjustment to our Ladies' rules. We have realised that the new handicap system takes a while to give an accurate handicap index to new players. Therefore, from next season, Board Prizes, the Ladies Championship and the Nicholson Trophy will continue to be open to all handicaps up to 54, but only players with a fully developed handicap of 20 scores on their WHS record will be able to win a prize. Our men's section has also adopted this rule to make a whole club approach. Our Competition Rules 2022 have been amended to include this, together with a few minor wording changes to, hopefully, make our rules clearer. The rules for the Championship/Nicholson Trophy have also been amended. Both will be posted on the Notice Board before the start of the season.

There are still a few hiccups with the ever-changing Howdidido/Club V1 systems, which are still being developed and modified, and the recording of your scores. We hope to offer a training session shortly, with examples of correctly completed score cards. Thanks to everyone for their patience in adopting all these changes.

Our Fixtures for 2022 are now complete and they will be sent out to all via email in the next week or two. There are a couple of fixtures which may need amending as the season goes on. Invitation Day has been included in August, but without an LC, the format may change. The fixtures will also be posted in the Locker Room. Let's hope the weather and Covid allow all our

fixtures to go ahead. Please mark the important dates in your diaries so that we can have a good turnout for competitions and matches.

Finally, thanks to Lady Captain, Lady President, Janet and the Ladies Committee for their help and organisation this year. They have put in a huge amount of time and effort. Also, to the Competitions and Handicap Committee, Elaine and Eileen for their assistance. It has been helpful to have others to discuss problems with, and to be able to go away leaving competitions in Elaine's capable hands.

Best wishes to everyone taking on any role next year and I hope for all of us, that there will be good weather, good company and good results in 2022. Keep on supporting Harwood Golf Club.

7. **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Janet Ayres commented that the greatest difficulty in preparing this report was separating out 2020 and 2021. To say the two years had merged was an under-statement. On reflection, 2021 saw a very gradual, and at times imperceptible, saunter towards the light from the darkness of the pandemic, and thankfully it is now looking as if normal service may return in relatively short order.

2021 started with us in full lockdown and golf was definitely off the agenda. All there was to keep us all going were the many humorous contributions on our WhatsApp group but that served its purpose in assuring us all we were not alone, and friends were out there somewhere.

With some nervousness we were allowed back onto the golf course at the end of March, and we universally felt liberated, albeit in a socially distanced way. Katharine arranged things according to the England Golf Guidelines, at least 2 metres apart, and definitely marking our own cards. Opening weekend could not happen as a gathering of that magnitude was not allowed. So, Lady Captain Lorna escaped the dreaded Drive In. We just started the season, working our way through our fixtures and generally waving across the car park to each other.

This initial period was laced with uncertainty, and it proved inevitable that we would have to postpone certain key events until later in the year, notably our Taster Day and Invitation Day. Once again Katharine had to "fiddle around" with fixtures and shoe-horn Invitation Day into August.

Our Taster Days are a regular season starter in normal times, but as in 2020, we had to postpone this until later in May when access to the clubhouse was allowed. We had a huge response to this, with 28 ladies attending on the day. Some of these took up the offer of temporary membership and group coaching and then four ladies went on to take full membership, along with 4 ladies from the Taster campaign we ran late in 2020. We also had a further 5 ladies who have joined us through the year, bringing the total to 13 new recruits. Particular thanks are due here to everyone who helped on the Taster Day or stood on the practice ground during coaching sessions or who took the ladies out on their first outings onto the course. Feedback from all the new ladies is that at Harwood they feel very well supported as they start their golfing experience.

Our Ladies' Open at the end of May was well supported with 16 teams and the Texas Scramble format seemed to be popular. Thanks to Vicky for organising this together with the "desk" team, Katharine, Kate and Karen and the raffle stars Wendy and Dawn.

The Picnic to Hill Valley in early August was a great success. Huge thanks for all the organisation of the picnic must go in the first place to Dawn who had booked it all up for her year as Lady Captain in 2020 but which had to be postponed due to Covid. In the event

Lorna and Dawn “worked” it together in 2021, ensuring everything was in good order for us all to have a great time away. Thank you to you both.

Invitation Day was moved to mid-August from its usual spot in June. By then, restrictions had been lifted and although caution was still encouraged, we were able to offer the usual menu of a warm welcome, generous hospitality and good golf to the many guests who joined us that day. Joan Fishwick and Chris Weatherall worked tirelessly to adorn the lounge with their tasteful flower arrangements and Rosie Lund and Arlene Mack prepared the usual classy menu cards. Again Katharine, Karen and Kate manned the registration desk. The caterers put on a super buffet and a great time was had by all. Harwood at its best.

Although leaving the golfing bits to Katharine, Janet felt she must comment on the excitement of late August and early September. For both the bronze team and the handicap team to get through to the Divisional semi-finals at Lytham Green Drive was a great achievement and a large number of Harwood ladies headed there on the day, either to golf, to caddy or to support. It was a wonderful day out. Topped only by the day out we then had at Knott End when the bronze team eventually won through to win the County Shield. As one of the golfers on that day the best part was seeing so many of our ladies and gents who had made the journey up to Knott End to show support. Congratulations to all! Thanks to all the team captains, Clare MacLeod for the Bell Cup, Jan Southern for the Handicap Shield and Sue Docherty for the Bronze Shield.

Our Shotgun event at the end of September was another great day at Harwood, organised with great efficiency by Marion Anderson. The lounge was abuzz with bacon butties and light refreshments before the hooter went off at 1pm, and we were treated to a lovely afternoon tea after play. Again, thanks are due to the “back-room staff” who organised the cards and ran the raffle.

Lady Captain, Lorna, was very belatedly subjected to the stress of Captains’ Drive In, although as this took place on closing weekend it was more aptly named Captains’ Drive Out. The first social for almost two years took place that same weekend and there was a great atmosphere of optimism and hope that things might be returning to normal. The following weekend we had a Rules Session in the clubhouse. This was run by “rules gurus” Jan Southern, Judith Simms, Clare MacLeod and Eileen Beeney and was impressively “propped” by Sue Manning who managed to visually create the 4th hole very effectively on the dance floor. More such sessions are planned in the future.

Our traditional Last Supper and Presentation Evening at the end of October was enhanced with a Silent Auction which raised valuable funds. It turns out that some of us are considerably more competitive when it comes to an auction than we are on the golf course! Thanks to Christine and Gillian Rogers for organising this and to the many, many contributions made by everyone to make it such a success.

Hard on the heels of this fund raiser came our coffee morning, our main fund raiser. Huge thanks to Dawn Eastland for organising so many new stall holders, and for helping to create a lovely atmosphere of casual browsing and coffee with friends. The Coffee Morning is always a hectic couple of hours whilst in progress, but the rewards are substantial for our funds. Thanks must go to virtually every lady member as we were over-whelmed with donations of cakes, craft and raffle prizes. Particular thanks as ever to Joan Fishwick for the generosity of her £1 bags.

And so next on the agenda was donning our glad rags and heels for the Ladies’ Dinner in December. Again, Joan, Christine, Rosie and Arlene did an incredible job dressing the room and creating a lovely ambience. The caterers put on a splendid meal and the wine waiters kept us well lubricated. The event was well supported and, speeches over, we all headed for the dance floor. Another great Harwood night and a welcome return of our annual shindig!

Although not at the Christmas lunch, Janet reported that this was a great success thanks to Sue Manning who had taken over the organisation. It was very well supported, and it was particularly lovely to see some of our more senior members join us. We've missed them all during the long period of this pandemic. Our thoughts are particularly with Joan Davies who we have not seen at the club for almost 2 years. We miss her.

So, despite a slow start early on and some uncertainty about how much we would achieve this year, we have in the end managed a full programme of social and golfing events. As usual, help to put these events on has come from all directions and has lightened the load considerably. Particular thanks to Katharine for managing everything to do with golf, be it fixtures, handicaps, WHS or presentations and to Anne for keeping us afloat. And obviously to Lorna, our Lady Captain and Christine, our Lady President for overseeing our happy and cheerful ladies' section.

Janet personally wanted to thank her fellow committee members, and all those who have served on committee with her over the last 9 years. Dawn and Gillian are also stepping down this year and thanks were offered to both of them for their support whilst on committee.

Janet Driver was wished a successful and enjoyable year as our Lady President in 2022 – Janet commented that she was sorry Janet D would not have a Lady Captain to work alongside. This has been a very taxing issue that we have endeavoured to resolve, and there is regret that we have not been able to put a name forward for the position of Lady Captain. But hopefully the arrangements we have put in place to cover the main functions normally carried out by Lady Captain will serve us well in 2022 and we will have to see how things progress in the future.

Final best wishes go to Clare MacLeod and Eileen Beeney who are striking out and taking up positions on the Bolton Town Competitions Committee and the Lancashire Ladies Golf Association Committee. Good luck in these new ventures.

Although standing down as Secretary, Janet offered her full support to the committee in its efforts throughout 2022.

8. **RESOLUTIONS**

The following resolutions, proposed by the Committee and the Past Captains, were put to a vote at the AGM to accommodate the absence of a Lady Captain: -

(i) to allocate leads and assistants to carry out the main internal event organization throughout the year, taking direction from the Committee

All in favour (unanimous)

(ii) to allocate Past Lady Captains, Committee Members or appropriate ladies to represent the club at external functions and to support Mr Captain as a golfing partner

All In favour (unanimous)

(iii) to put forward a lady to sit on Management in lieu of Lady Captain

All in favour (unanimous)

9. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Secretary: Eileen Beeney had been nominated as Secretary

Proposed: Katharine Jones
Seconded: Dawn Eastland

Elected Unopposed

Competition Secretary: Katharine Jones had been nominated as Competition Secretary

Proposed: Wendy Howard
Seconded: Christine Weatherall

Elected Unopposed

10. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Sue Manning had been nominated to join the committee

Proposed: Janet Ayres
Seconded: Maureen Shurrock

Elected Unopposed

Karen Hogg had been nominated to join the committee

Proposed: Sue Docherty
Seconded: Sue Manning

Elected Unopposed

Denise Magrath had been nominated to join the committee

Proposed: Joan Fishwick
Seconded: Janet Ayres

Elected Unopposed

11. LADY CAPTAIN'S CLOSING REMARKS

Lorna offered her thanks to the Greens' Staff, the Bar staff under Lynn's management, the catering staff and her committee. Thanks also to Vicky Boyes and Marion Anderson for organizing the opens, to Rosie, Arlene, Joan Fishwick and Christine Weatherall for their work on table cards and flowers, to the three team captains, Clare, Jan and Sue Docherty, to Dawn Eastland to whom she had turned for all advice and to Janet for her guidance. Special thanks to Katharine for all her work during the year. Welcome to all the new ladies and the unsung heroes who supported those ladies to get into golf. She finished by saying that the forthcoming year would be different without a Lady Captain at the helm, but that everything would be managed by Committee and working parties. She invited suggestions from anyone along the way. She wished everyone a happy and safe year of golf ahead.

10. DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, 22 January 2023, 2pm

The meeting closed at 2.55 pm