

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
HARWOOD LADIES' SECTION
ON SUNDAY, 29th January 2023**

PRESENT: 32 playing members

1. CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS

Chris Weatherall welcomed everyone to the AGM and asked for a minute's silence in memory of three Past Lady Captains and Lady Presidents who had passed away during the year: Mrs. Joan Lynn, Mrs. Lesley Lund, and Mrs. Marilyn Watson

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

Clare MacLeod	Lucille Grime	Pat Doherty	Rosie Lund
Kath Taylor	Kay Brannigan	Rita Towler	Helen Radcliffe
Kathy Hardman	Kellie Marsden	Sue Docherty	Sue Selby
Karen Hogg			

3. MINUTES OF AGM HELD ON 23rd JANUARY 2022

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

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

Anne Oakes presented her report, describing a small increase in assets since last year, thanks to everyone's hard work. The full report is appended.

6. COMPETITION SECRETARY'S REPORT

Katharine Jones started her report by thanking everyone for their attendance. She described a very busy golfing calendar and mentioned the rule changes which were introduced at the beginning of the year. The full report is appended.

7. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Eileen Beeney reported on the challenges and benefits of a year without a Lady Captain and thanked all those who had worked hard to make the year a success. The full report is appended.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Treasurer: Anne Oakes was nominated as Secretary

Proposed: Sue Manning
Seconded: Dianne Cooper

Elected Unopposed

9. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Kay Brannigan was nominated to join the committee

Proposed: Sue Manning
Seconded: Dianne Cooper

Elected Unopposed

Janet Ayres was nominated to join the committee

Proposed: Dianne Cooper
Seconded: Sue Manning

Elected Unopposed

10. CHAIRS CLOSING REMARKS

Chris thanked everyone for their attendance and wished them a safe journey home.

11. DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, 21st. January 2024, 2pm

The meeting closed at 2.53 pm

Harwood Ladies Golf Section
AGM 29th January 2023
Treasurer's Report

This is my second year as Treasurer and hopefully I've finally got to grips with it (I think!).

At the start of this year the asset balance was £2,256.83 of which £210 was ring fenced as Canopy hire.

As last year, we had 3 successful golf events of our own, the first one being the May Open, with 12 teams playing and earning us a profit of £174.20.

In August we held our annual Invitation Day, bringing in a lot of ladies from other clubs. This produced a small deficit of £189.78.

The next event, a very successful Shotgun event in September catered for 19 teams and brought in another profit of £250.

We also had the honour of hosting the Golf COT in May, which again meant that we had a lot of ladies visiting from other clubs who enjoyed the day. As hosts we donated the first prizes at a cost of £100.

We then had two social events in October, which were our main fundraisers – the Blind Auction and the Ladies Coffee Morning and they brought in £175 and £859.38 respectively.

Our final event of the year was our Christmas Dinner, which 60 people attended, and produced a deficit £356.33

The other source of income came from 2 other raffles, one of which was for the Lady Captain's Car Parking space, which brought in £145, which unfortunately we won't be able to do this year as thanks to Dianne, we have a Lady Captain!!! and the other was from the sale of the Christmas hampers - thanks to everyone for their contribution for the hampers and a special thanks to Dawn and her helpers for making the hampers, which brought in £228.

Just before highlighting the total income and expenditure one item not yet mentioned is the £1,000 sponsorship for the Team kit, provided by Flamerisk – Bob Docherty. I'd just like to thank Bob and Sue ofcourse!

Plus I would also like to thank the girls who work hard on the Canopy as after taking into account what we spend on the ribbons, the hire of the canopy has brought in almost £250.

After all of the above the total income for the year amounted to £7,695.35 and was offset by expenditure for Bank charges, (which the bank only brought in this year), prizes, catering, menu cards and flowers for golf and social events, teams catering, donations, ribbons for the canopy, gifts and flowers, locker room keys, honorariums, and a few other small sundries, amounting to £7,263.82

All of this resulted in us finishing up with asset balance of £2,688.36 (which is £431.53 more than last year) of which £400 is ring fenced as canopy hire.

Just from my point of view from the relatively small budget that we have, an awful lot is achieved because of the hard work lots of the ladies put in, so would just like to thank everyone for that hard work that makes this club as successful and welcoming as it is.

I would also like to thank Maureen for auditing the accounts.

Anne Oakes – Treasurer

Competition Secretary's Report for AGM January 2023

Lady President, Lady Captain Elect, Lady President Elect, Ladies, good afternoon.

I would like to start by thanking everyone for attending this afternoon.

Thank you also for your support during the last season.

We were lucky with the weather and hardly had to cancel any Competitions ...until December and then the rains and the flu arrived!

During our playing season we had a good cross section of players and winners. Most weeks we had 20+entries and for the Sue Lee Trophy in August we made the dizzy heights of 30 competitors.

The main prizes were awarded to ladies with a wide variety of handicaps.

Our Board Prizes and Officials competitions, together with the Championship and Nicholson Trophy all went ahead as planned. Our winners for the record were:-

Knock outs

Ladies Champion

Clare MacLeod with Amelia Taylor being runner up.

Nicholson Trophy	Helen Radcliffe
Singles Knock out winner	Helen Radcliffe
Foursomes Knock out winners	Janet Ayres and Elaine Smith
<u>Board prizes</u>	
Ladies Shield	Kate Knox
Ladies Trophy	Clare MacLeod
Millennium Trophy	Dianne Cooper
Jubilee Trophy	Clare MacLeod
<u>Officials' Prizes</u>	
Lady President's Prize	Marion Nolan
Mr. Captain's Prize	Gillian Crofts
Mr President's Prize	Marion Nolan
Committee Prize	Carol Brooking

End of Season Awards

Douglas Trophy (Gross)	Clare MacLeod
Edith Smith Plate (Nett)	Clare MacLeod
Order of Merit	Marion Nolan
Birdie Tree	Clare MacLeod

The EGM, now called The Race to Woodhall Spa has just been announced by England Golf. It is calculated on the 4 best score differentials over the 2022 playing season. Our winner is Marion Nolan. She is now entitled to go forward to the area finals at High Legh GC Cheshire on 21st May. I should like to present Marion with her Club prize for this achievement.

We also took part in **external competitions** in Lancashire, East Lancashire, Manchester and Bolton together with some National Competitions organised by England Golf, Ping and the Mail on Sunday. Although we did not have much success in terms of prizes, our ladies did us proud, supported charities and entered the wider golfing community.

I am quickly going to list our entries. You may be surprised by how many we have entered.

1. In the **Daily Mail** competition Sue Manning and Dianne Cooper beat Brightmet in Round 1 but lost 3 & 2 to Old Links in Round 2.
 2. Our **Bell Cup Team**, organised by Amelia had a tough 1st round draw away at Heaton Moor. Their matches were very close but the result was a 4.3 win to the opposition.
 3. In our **Ping Qualifying Competition** Helen Radcliffe and Gill Rogers qualified with 47 points to go through to the Finals with the best 52 pairs in the country at Thunock Park, Lincolnshire in September. They had a wonderful day and came home with 2nd place and a car full to the brim with prizes. A fantastic result.
 4. **Bolton Golf Cot** was held at Harwood, supporting the Frost Foundation and Fort Alice Charities. Harwood Team 3, Rita, Vicky, Irene, Anne and Sylvia were the winners, with Irene also winning the 1st prize in Division 2.
 5. Clare played in the **English Seniors** Golf Competition at Coventry where she made it through to the final day being in the top 45 players. She also played in the **Welsh Seniors** where she came 23rd and was a member of the Lancashire Seniors Ladies' team.
 6. **Bolton Championship** was held at Westhoughton. Clare played really well and reached the final where she lost to Jo Miller from Turton on the 17th after an enjoyable but tense match.
- In the **Ancillary competition**, Lorna, Wendy Gudger, and Sue Selby came 2nd on a Card Play Off.
7. **Bolton Challenge Bowl** was held at Great Lever. Kathy Hardman won the Higher Handicaps Trophy Crystal Bowl and the team of Sue Docherty, Lorna and Kathy won the Constance Lever Silver Basket team prize.
 8. Amelia played at St. Andrew's, Scotland in the **Strathtyrum Tournament**. This comprised 2 rounds of stroke play, two rounds of match play, a semi final and a final. The Scratch Tournament winner won the Strathtyrum Trophy and Amelia won the Strathtyrum Salver as the winner of the Handicap Tournament Competition. An excellent achievement.

1. Kate, Rita and Marion Anderson qualified for the **ELLGA Annie Chambers Competition** at Brightmet in June.
2. Gill Rogers, Sue Docherty, Eileen and Lorna represented us in the Lancashire **Bronze Interclub** East Division Competition at Towneley.
3. In the East Lancashire **Scratch and Worsley** Competition held at Burnley our team were unfortunately beaten by Colne.
4. Anne, Eileen, Rita and Marion Anderson played in the **Scott Leggatt** Foursome divisional finals at Dunscair.
5. Sue Manning played in the Manchester **Bunty Booth** trophy Final at Davyhulme Park.
6. Dianne qualified for the Lancashire **Frances Smith** competition at Woolton in August, where she had an interesting day!
7. Elaine Henderson travelled to Durham to represent us in the **England Golf Medal** at Brancepeth.
8. Marion Nolan and Gill Rogers travelled to Appleby to play in the **Australian Spoons**, where they played a very interesting course, together with the sheep, and kept us amused with their WhatsApp photos and reports.
9. Our **Shield** teams, both Handicap Team and Bronze Team had some lovely days out playing at a variety of clubs in Lancashire. They won some, drew some and lost some. Thanks to Sue Manning and Marion Anderson for organising the matches, and the refreshments for home matches. Well done teams and thanks for playing.

A final thanks to everyone who has represented Harwood in any way this year. I am quite breathless after reading out all your achievements. Please accept my apologies if I have missed anyone out.

I attended an England Golf **Seminar** for Lancashire clubs at the beginning of January. Dale and I found this quite interesting if a little bewildering at times. The information concerned the handicapping process, new rule changes and the Annual Review.

This year there were no handicap adjustments needed in the Ladies' Section Review- despite what we may think after some of the competitions. I have emailed the main rule changes to you all and they will be displayed in the locker room once renovations are complete. As far as the handicapping process is concerned, thank goodness for Club V1 calculations and the WHS Administrators Portal!

I would like to give my thanks to Lady President, Lady Captain Elect and the Ladies' Committee. To Elaine Smith for standing in for me in my absence and to Eileen for all her work keeping us in line, organising the Committee matters and performing multiple administrative tasks in the background.

Best wishes and good luck to everyone taking on roles next year.

Our Ladies Section goes from strength to strength and I think you would agree that it would be difficult to find a friendlier group of ladies at any club.

Happy golfing.

Katharine Jones
Competition Secretary

Secretary's Annual Report 2023

Lady President, Lady Captain Elect, Ladies

This has been an unusual and challenging year for the ladies' section without a lady captain and for most of the year with no lady captain elect. The benefits seem to have balanced the difficulties however, and many of our ladies have stepped up to share duties and responsibilities, grown in confidence and become more familiar with the day-to-day management and obligations of the section.

The major focus of the section during the past few years has been recruitment and retention. Janet Ayres and helpers worked hard to organize the taster day in April, and to ensure that the programme of group coaching and practice on the course was successful. Later 'Turn Up and Learn' sessions have supported that work, and we have four new members who have either gained a handicap and joined in our competitions, or who are keen to move on to that stage. Many thanks to Janet, to Dale for his input, to all who have contributed, and to the new members for their enthusiasm.

Increasing our women's membership at Harwood, and female involvement in everything golf at Harwood, was one of our key commitments when signing up to the WOMEN IN GOLF CHARTER. Janet, our Women in Golf Champion reports that the club's website has a dedicated ladies' section which is regularly updated with our achievements and successes but also with the "fun" and more social side of golfing life at Harwood. Feedback indicates that this has a positive effect on those searching potential local golf clubs. The club's marketing Chair has procured softer and more inclusive imagery for the regular advertising features which are run on the club's various social media platforms and the panels on display around the clubhouse. It's hoped that in future this will help attract more interest from women. Attracting more women into the game requires a shift in culture and a break in stereotypical ideas about golf clubs. Janet reports that Harwood enjoys an inclusive vibe that should be further supported and encouraged.

Each year we showcase our course by holding two Open competitions. Both competitions were finally well supported this year, and thoroughly enjoyed by all who took part. The friendly atmosphere was a credit to the club. Thanks to Vicky Boyes and Elaine Smith for doing such a great job organizing these events.

I would ask everyone who wants to enter a team in next season's Opens, to do so earlier, and save the organisers what is an anxious wait to find out if the competition is viable.

The annual 'picnic' took place in August at Hawkstone Park where we enjoyed two rounds of golf in surprisingly dry weather. Judith Simms and her glamorous assistant Janet looked after everyone very well and supplied some wonderful prizes and a new trophy. Not content with one outing, Judith also organised a day trip to Davyhulme Park golf club where we had a memorably enjoyable day in hot sunshine.

The highlight of the golfing calendar is always our Invitation Day, and this year was no exception. The visiting lady captains and other guests were treated to golf on a well-cared for course, followed by a lovely meal in a beautifully decorated room. Thanks to all those involved in the planning.

The presentation evening to celebrate all the winners was well attended, and the not so silent auction organised by Chris Weatherall helped expand the coffers. I won't repeat what Katharine has reported about the golfing successes, but congratulations to all, and thanks to Bob and Sue Docherty for the generous donation for new team kit.

The coffee morning later in the year was an enjoyable way to raise funds. Unfortunately, I was unable to be there, but I'm reliably informed that there were many interesting stalls and a great buzz. Dawn Eastland organised everything very well, and the large team of helpers made sure all went according to plan, and of course the bank balance went up by a substantial amount.

The Bridge Club has continued to meet regularly and would warmly welcome new members. The Harwood Harmonies go from strength to strength.

To complete the year, we held the ladies' dinner courtesy of Chris Weatherall and Lady Captain Elect, closely followed by the Christmas lunch organized by Sue Manning.

The web blog continues to thrive. Janet Ayres and Helen Radcliffe keep it up to date with articles and photos. Helen has also developed the members part of the website to hold useful information for us all, especially new members and those who lose their emails.

Most of the events and activities I've mentioned rely on the skills and considerable effort by many of our members. Joan Fishwick and Chris Weatherall beautify everything with flower arrangements; Rosie Lund and Arlene Mack make the lovely menu cards, and the team of Lorna Hart, Karen Hogg and Kate Knox contribute money for the dinner entertainment as well as helping to transform the room with the canopy. The socials wouldn't be the same without them all. The less glamorous role of setting up the golf competition part of events and making sure the scores were correct was taken by Katharine Jones, who sat at a desk for hours while the rest of us had fun playing. Katharine, we can't thank you enough. The other considerably less glamorous work was carried out by our Mrs. Mops who donned rubber gloves etc. to clean the course toilet. A special thanks to Elaine Smith who made it a more welcoming place in readiness for the Shotgun.

You may have noticed some activity in the locker room recently. Jan Southern and her working group have tidied, scrubbed, stripped walls and painted. Kay Brannigan and husband have donated and laid carpet tiles. Lady Captain Elect's husband has supplied storage units, so the room now sparkles. Many thanks to the whole team who are now more than ready for a holiday.

Although we started the year with some misgivings, everything has progressed extremely well. This is due in no small part to the committee members who have given so much time and energy especially Anne and Katharine our Treasurer and Competition Secretary, to the 'leads' on all events, and everyone who has donated time, raffle prizes and good humour, vital ingredients for a successful golfing community.

I'd like to conclude by thanking Arlene for looking after the signing in table, Lady President for all she has done in supporting the ladies this year, and Chris for chairing the committee meetings. Congratulations and all good wishes to Maureen Shurrock who will be the Captain of Captains for the Bury Past Lady Captains Association in this coming season, and finally to Dianne and Clare I wish you a most enjoyable and successful year with good golf, good company and good weather.

Eileen Beeney
Ladies' Secretary