

DRAFT

MINUTES OF THE LADIES' GENERAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 23rd OCTOBER 2018

Mina Crowe, the outgoing Ladies Captain, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming. She also thanked Pat for the quiz which preceded the meeting.

1. **Members Present**

Mina Crowe (MC)	Lady Captain
Pat Collins (PC)	Vice-Captain
Teresa Green (TG)	Past Lady Captain
Anne Stratford (AS)	Secretary
Ann Ryzner (AR)	Midweek Competitions
Sally Royall (SR)	Midweek Matches
Jess Howard (JH)	Week-end Competitions
Debbie Evans (DE)	Charity Secretary
Sue Ketcher (SK)	Weekend Matches
Helen Corbett (HK)	Junior Committee representative

Fiona Marshall, Rosey Foster, Kim Price, Steph Williams, Jill Toothill, Angela Strevens, Rosie Laws, Sue Reed, Eve Spiller, Sheila Van Piggelen, Patricia Coleman, Marian Richardson, Fern Freeston, Brigitte Daly, Anne McCarthy, Sue Farminer, Carol Hardy, Lorna Baldey

2. **Apologies**

Pam Pitcher, Di Heavey, Dorothy Buckrell, Derrin Gill, Sally Lester, Jane Pugh, Vikki Kitcat, Janice Paddock, Glenys Palmer, Wendy Cannell

3. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

These were agreed.

Proposed: Jess Howard Seconded: Teresa Green

4. **Matters arising**

Feedback from round table forum 2017

1) **What four things would improve your golfing experience?**

- a) Ensuring that players who go out ahead of the ladies are competent golfers – impossible
- b) Bunkers raked and some sand in them – they are doing their best
- c) More bar staff, especially at weekends – they are currently recruiting
- d) People who turn up late for tee times should not be allowed to play – No.

2) **How can we bring more people into the club?** – Sally Royall has produced a flyer to distribute to potential players. This has been given to pro's who will give them out to their clients.

Fiona Marshall suggested putting flyers onto supermarket boards and kindly offered to do that.

5. **Midweek Competitions (Ann Ryzner)**

Thank you to the Ladies who volunteered to be Starters for the Midweek golf in 2018 and thank you to everyone for being patient with Sally and I as we got used to the computerised sign up and sending out of the start sheets.

We have had the usual monthly Medal and Stablefords this year as well as some fun competitions. A new fun competition this is the 2 Course Challenge which will take place on Thursday 8th November. 18 holes will be played on the Short course (Maybury) and 9 holes on the Shey. Sign up is online as usual. £3 entry to go to Charity. If this is popular we will play it again next year. In 2019 there will be a fun competition once a month and it will be shown in the diary. The fun competitions in the first 3 months of the year will be over 9 holes as usual.

The Bronze Midweek Trophy was played again with Pam Brundle winning and Sally Byrne the runner up. New this year was the Plate competition for anyone who lost in the 1st round. Carol Allport won the Plate and Julia King was the runner up.

Rosey Foster did a great job organising Baby Boomers again and she raised a fantastic £280 for charity. Well done Rosey!

The Friendly Midweek Matches have been brilliantly organised by Sally Royall. All 8 have been played with some wins and some losses but lots of cream teas! Sally wants to thank all the Ladies for signing up and asks that they do so next year as well.

Midweek Matches (Sally Royal)

Although there was a slow start to the Ladies Midweek Friendlies this year, we have had a full complement team for most of the matches and have had a reasonable amount of success, culminating in a superb win over Coome Wood in the last match of the season, with our ladies winning all the games.

Hoebridge catering has made a god effort at providing nice post-match afternoon teas, and on the whole, we have played against some very pleasant ladies, in a good and friendly spirit, and of course, in some beautiful weather in the latter months.

Thanks, need to go to the Hoebridge groundsmen for keeping the course in such good condition, which was commented on by many of our visitors.

In all, 30 Hoebridge ladies played in the matches during the season, which was very impressive, and much appreciated.

6. Week-end Competitions (Jess Howard)

I believe that On line sign up has been a great success & ladies seem to have taken it in their stride. Weekend Attendances had declined over the summer but have since picked up again.

It's been great to see so many new members this year playing in competitions.

We have reviewed the diary next year, ladies qualifying stablefords will be on 2nd weekend of the month & medals on the 4th weekend.

I have included some competitions on Saturdays and some with slightly later start times.

We have reduced the number of mixed stablefords in 2019 as these have not been well supported this year.

Other events will be interspaced between, we have tried to avoid 2 consecutive days especially bank hols to encourage further participation

I would welcome more volunteers to be weekend starters in 2019 & will be putting a sign-up list on the board, once I have the final diary dates.

7. Handicaps (Pat Collins)

We have some very encouraging statistics this year. 128 lady members of which 96 are active and 81 have full competition handicaps.

Non-active members include those ladies who only play on the Shey and perhaps midweek roll ups.

As you know you need a competition handicap to compete in Qualifying competitions and to maintain this you only need to submit three cards, either via a competition or a supplementary card, in a calendar year to keep your c handicap for the following calendar year.

CONGU (Council of National Golf Unions) to which a club must be affiliated, in order to administer an official handicapping system, has introduced some major changes this year which have caused lots of excitement.

Primarily the lifting of the upper handicap (for both men and ladies) to 54.

This caused much concern as members started to imagine an inundation of very high handicap new members, skewing the results in competitions, this has not been the case, although we have seen our membership rise this year, which it hasn't done for some time, perhaps demonstrating the effect that was hoped for by the powers that be.

A system that is now available to the handicap committee is the continuous handicap review. Our Club V1 handicap software system flags up members who haven't achieved their buffer zone in 7 consecutive qualifying competitions, the committee considers these to see if the players are struggling with their current handicap and can make an adjustment.

Another method of inputting your playing record is by submitting supplementary scores. These are for players who are unable to play in competitions either due to work or family commitments or other reasons, or a declining desire to play in competitive golf. There are strict rules for submitting these cards and the procedures are available on the website and the notice board.

Finally, after watching, waiting and deliberating.

The ladies committee and the men committee have decided to welcome all members to play in all competitions, with the proviso that the board and trophy events have a minimum entry qualification, which is that the entrant must have played in a minimum of four qualifying competitions one of which has to be a medal.

As a ladies committee we have decided to alter the boundary lines between handicaps in competitions to try and equalise them and help with the distribution of prize money, so silver will be up to and including 24 and bronze 25 and over.

We will of course be monitoring this to see if it is successful.

8. New Members (Pam Pitcher's report read by Anne Stratford)

I am pleased to report to the meeting that this year we have had a considerable increase in the number of Ladies signing up to become members of Hoebridge Golf Centre. It is very encouraging, especially as generally Golf has been on the decline in recent years.

Some of the ladies have acquired their handicaps and are already signing up and joining in the competitions. We hope that more ladies will continue to be involved in the various games, competitions.

On another note what has been remarked upon by new members is the friendliness of the club members and the warm welcome that members have received. So, I would like to thank you all for making any new member welcome. I would also like to extend a very warm welcome to all new members, and hope that this trend will continue through 2019.

9. Charity Committee (Debbie Evans)

We started the year with an enthusiastic committee including our two Captains, Mina Crowe and Norman Spiller. The rest of the crew is made up of Teresa Green, Pat Collins, Graham Norris, Shirley Backwith, Wendy Cannell, Sue Reed, Bill Goodman, Susan Ketcher, Helen Corbett, Jonathan Gray, and Debbie Evans, with assistance from Derek Van Piggelen, the Hoebridge Admin staff and great and unflinching support from our Treasurer Philip Jones. Committee members pushed their friends and pursued our list of contacts for donations to help raise funds this year, and you all made every charity event and fund-raising effort worthwhile by taking part in the events and by joining the 100 Club, buying copious amounts of raffle tickets and Mulligans and bidding in our ever-popular auctions.

At last year's AGM, the Captains agreed on a 50/50 split for the Prostate Project and Homestart Runnymede & Woking as their charities for this year, although individuals also raised funds specifically for one or the other of these charities.

The 100 Club was a success again this year and added £1250 to the charity funds. There were 20 prizes given out from January thru October, so if you did not win in 2018, there will be another chance in 2019, as new 100 Club memberships will be sold starting in November.

The Charity year runs from November 1st, through the end of October, so this Charity year began with a Bingo Bangers & Mash Event in November organised by Shirley, Sue and Bill with Ray Redrup as our Caller, followed by a Quiz Night organised by Mina and Helen Corbett later in the month. The profitable Men's and Ladies Christmas lunches took place in December and Hoebridge opened its doors on Christmas Day and added funds taken that day to the Charity pots too. At the start of the year, funds were raised at the Captain's Drive In, and then Anne McCarthy's sponsored her Champagne Charlie event in early January for Homestart. We were then delighted with a Bridge & Scrabble Evening organised by Mina and Marian in February.

March saw another very enjoyable Quiz Night organised by Fiona and David Marshall, while the Men's Spring Tour added more funds. Anne McCarthy again raised considerable sums for HOMESTART with her Pimm's O'clock event in early July.

Our biggest fundraiser is Charity Day in July, and this year we had a goodly crop of 26 teams teeing off. With the help of Tim Sharp, Honorary President of the Prostate Project, as auctioneer, we raised well over £8,000 at this event. The Charity raffle was a big hit, as usual, with the star prize being an Ipad Air, acquired by Sue Reed from Brewpack. Hole Sponsorships by many Hoebridge members also helped to fill the coffers. All the charity Committee members helped on the day, but we also appreciated the help of Robin Cannell, Ann Ryzner, Pauline and Malcolm Crowe, Andy Richardson and Peter Becque and Phil Jones who all helped to make the day a success. We also appreciated the wonderful baking skills of Eve Spiller amongst other talented and generous bakers as well.

Norman Spiller made a heroic Charity Run from Fair Oaks Airport to raise just short of £2,000 for The Prostate Project.

Bill Goodman organised Charity Sweeps for the Augusta Masters and Ryder Cup, while our Club Chairman, Peter Smith raised funds at his Summer BBQ.

More funds were raised by Rosey Foster's Baby Boomers event, and both Captain's Days and Invitation Days in the autumn.

You have all contributed this year in so many different ways, and the Charity Committee are very grateful. To date, approximately £9,839. has been raised for the Prostate Project and £9,012 for Homestart. The Captains will present the Charities with their cheques on Presentation Night.

No single event raises staggering sums, except Charity Day, and each November there is a small panic as we wonder just how we are going to succeed another year in raising as much as we did the year before. But every year you members make a success of the fundraising year. Your constant generosity is amazing. You have raised well over £20,000 this year. Well Done! The next meeting for the Charity Committee is Thursday, October 25th, here at the club in case you would like to join our merry little band of fundraisers at 7:30pm. We are always grateful for a few more members. Meetings tend to be very short and sweet, as all members can't make every meeting.

Additional reminder: Please sign up for Bingo & Balti Night taking place on November 1st. Remember to bring donations for the Christmas Luncheons raffles on the day of the event and pass onto a Charity Committee member.

MC thanked Debbie for all her support and hard work driving all this year's charity events.

10. NAPGC (Di Heavey's report read by Anne Stratford)

The NAPGC organises about 20 competitions each year for golfers of all handicaps and abilities.

We entered 2 teams in the Mary Forster Bowl, where we came 2nd and 3rd in the group stages.

This year we had 2 teams entering the JHB. 1 in each division of Gross & Nett, where we came 6th & 7th, a strong field this year.

The Hawtree competition unfortunately wasn't for us again this year. We have such great players, we just need to look at our mixed pair competitions to try and field our best teams.

2 White Webb teams were entered, one narrowly losing in the Regional Final to Easthampstead who have such a strong ladies' section now.

The Ladies Seniors was again held at West Middlesex with a small but strong field. Unfortunately, only Sandra Combstock & Di Heavey represented Hoebridge this year but were unable to win for the 3rd consecutive year even though coming in with 32 & 33 points.

The Ladies Championships of England were held at Staverton Park where Sandra Combstock, Di Heavey, Jess Howard, Justine O'Neill, Fern Freeston, Teresa Green & Rosey Foster had all qualified, our best number of qualifiers from all the competitions. Di came R/Up in the Silver Nett and Fern came 4th in the bronze Nett.

The UKPCC Final at St.Andrews saw Di & Justine qualify; unfortunately they were unable to bring any silverware home but enjoyed their experience very much.

The Midweek Greensomes had 2 entries, Jess & Debbie Evans who lost to White Lodge and Sandra & Di losing to Basildon in the National Semi-Final played at Westerham being a neutral course.

The 2018/19 season is just about to get underway so entries for the Mary Forster must be registered by 1st November. This competition is a team of 3, playing stableford, all scores to count. It is drawn in groups and matches are played at each venue.

This is a great event to play winter golf. I have some entry forms here for anyone who is interested.

I will keep you informed throughout the year of all the competitions. They are all good fun, so I look forward to hearing from you with your entry forms!!

11. Outgoing Lady Captain (Mina Crowe)

Despite serving an apprenticeship in 2017 under Teresa's captaincy I still found it hard work learning on the job about all the work that goes into running the club.

I have to thank all the ladies who have done such a great job helping me. My committee, the match organisers the external competition organisers and, of course, my amazing Vice Captain Pat, not to mention all the ladies who turn up week after week and do such a great job of making the club such a welcoming and friendly place.

Two of the committee – Teresa Green and Dorothy Buckrell are standing down this year and I would like to thank them for all their help and support this year; they have both done a wonderful job.

We've had a few problems throughout the year mainly due to changes in personnel at the Centre but, despite this, the entries for midweek and weekend competitions have grown and the members have participated with enthusiasm.

The Centre staff has done a great job selling memberships and we have welcomed 15 new lady members during the year several of whom play regularly on Thursdays and at weekends.

The midweek team have now converted all the ladies to on-line sign up although some mixed and team competitions still require manual sign up on the notice board.

They have also introduced new and innovative competitions such as the 2 Course Challenge which will be held for the first time on November 6th.

The weekend team has also increased attendance and Fiona's informal weekend games are well supported.

We have played a number of matches both midweek and at the weekends with mixed results. All the ladies' who participated thoroughly enjoyed their matches, especially the delicious teas afterwards!

I would also like to thank all the ladies who organise and run all the competitions we enter and all of you participate.

This year we introduced a Ladies' Coffee morning. Although only 3 teams attended, they were impressed with the course and enjoyed their games.

We also reinstated the Ladies Invitation Day which went very well. 32 ladies played on the main course and 8 played on the Shey Copse then we all lunched together.

For the future we plan to introduce what Jess has dubbed "Nine and Wine" events in the New Year which will be targeted at Flexi-members to tempt them to join our club – we hope that some of you will join in to help run the sessions.

The web site team are continuing to develop the website with the introduction of a member's hub accessed through a club app.

The Handicap committee face a number of changes this year and next with the introduction of the world handicapping system and the introduction of 54 handicaps.

My Charity this year "Home Start" will benefit to the sum of about £9,000.00 from my year as Captain thanks to your generosity and the hard work of all the members of the Charity Committee. You ladies have been amazing and I am really looking forward to presenting the cheque to the Charity representatives at Presentation Evening

I would like to offer my congratulations to all the competition winners and to thank all the ladies who entered and made the competitions so successful. I look forward to celebrating all the achievements of our prize-winners at Presentation evening.

Looking back over my year I have memories of all my special events being wreathed in sunshine and I can also see a bevy of beautiful ladies in their bright summer dresses gracing the golf courses of Surrey looking like a bouquet of flowers.

Thank you so much ladies' for a wonderful year. Despite a few problems I have had a great time and I am confident that next year, under the Captaincy of Pat, it will be even better.

12. Incoming Lady Captain (Pat Collins)

Well ladies not too much to report here other than feeling I am back in full-time education.

I'd like to thank all the past captains, committee members and friends that have given me the benefit of their experience and I hope they will continue to do so, please ignore the look of horror on my face when I realise I have forgotten something.

I hope I can keep all the balls in the air next year, I have been in awe, watching Mina calmly dealing with all the myriad problems of which the members have no idea.....I certainly didn't

When I was told that tonight I was to present my vision of my future year, I was horrified, never having had a vision.

I told my daughter, who is chair of her PTA, of my problem she said "why don't you say what I said" so I will

My vision for the next year will be "if it ain't fun we ain't doing it".

I'm quite sure that won't always be the case, but if you see me sobbing in a corner give me a hug and remind me

Golf is only a game

Thank You!

13. Election of New Committee Members and 2019 Committee (Pat Collins)

Pam Pitcher to be re-elected

Proposed MC Seconded PC

Vote carried unanimously.

PC reported that she would defer electing new committee members to January 2019 – anyone who is interested please speak directly to PC.

14. Captain's Charity for 2019 (Pat Collins)

Pat announced that she would not be having a separate charity for 2019 as she and the men's captain, Graham Norris, have chosen jointly to support Ovarian Cancer.

15. Round Table Forum

Round Table discussions were carried out with 3 questions asked per table – see Appendix.

16. Any Other Business

a) SK asked for weekend match contacts to be forward to her

b) PC confirmed that Beaujolais Day 15/11 is now available to sign up online – it is a mixed team event

c) Fiona Marshall asked for clarity re buggy hire – no medical certificate required just inform the committee

d) JH asked who will be looking after Eclectic due to Dorothy Buckrell stepping down – MC will confirm.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 9.15pm

Signed..... Date

Mina Crowe, Lady Captain in 2018

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 22nd October 2019.

APPENDIX

Feedback from round table discussions 2018

Question 1a) what have you enjoyed at Hoebridge this year?

- Fun Competitions
- Social and Charity Events
- Quality of the course
- Friendly atmosphere
- Away days and sleepover golf
- On line booking and inputting of scores
- Support from Hoebridge staff.
- Match teas
- Reintroduction of Invitation Day
- Chairman's BBQ

1b) what have you not enjoyed at Hoebridge this year?

- Food
- Match teas too bulky
- Mats on the Shey in poor condition
- Bunkers on Maybury in poor condition
- Clubroom often unavailable midweek
- Bar area and Patio not kept clean – especially the smoking area
- Long queues to get served
- No ice in the hot summer
- Long wait to get coffee halfway round 18 holes – could there be a quick service area or a coffee machine.

2. Do you use the Club Website – what would encourage you to use it more often?

- Make it easier to find/access
- Have a link from the Hoebridge Centre website
- Not user friendly
- Not much on it – need more interesting stuff= upcoming events advertised well in advance.
- Social News
- Offers in shop
- Include Surrey and NAPGC events and competitions
- Have a "Twitter" account or club hub feed

3. What should constitute club kit – what colours should we adopt?

Kit should be a polo shirt, navy trousers or skort and an outer garment

Table 1: Navy trousers and jumper with a bright coloured polo shirt e.g. purple
Prefer a sweatshirt to a jumper

Table 2: Deep purple/red/pink/cerise/raspberry/mint/pale blue

Table 3: Navy trousers/skort and top with mint/lavender/white polo shirt
Long or short sleeved top – not wool

Table 4: Navy blue bottoms. Tops a blend of white/navy and mint green
Prefer a windproof top/jacket – not wool.