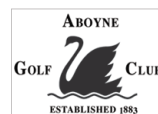




Minutes of The Ladies' Annual General Meeting held in the Clubhouse
on Saturday 20th October 2018 at 10.00am



1. **Welcome:** The Captain opened the meeting and welcomed the 26 members who were present.
2. **Apologies:** Maureen Wilson, Katie Short, Fenneke Wolters-Sinke, Lucia Hunter, Sandra Findlay, Lorraine Logan, Marion Hall, Susan Smith, Katherine Emeleus, Eileen Anderson, Joanna D'Onghia and Judith McCaffery.
3. **Approval of the Minutes of the AGM 14th October 2017:**
Proposed by Heather Mackenzie and seconded by Jenny Mackie.

There were no matters arising.

4. Reports

Captain's Report

Our matches with the Swannies were very well supported and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Games were played in a friendly and generous manner. Unfortunately, the Swannies won the trophy back from the ladies, so will have our honour to defend next year.

No Ladies Invitational day was planned as we expected to have a club invitational. For a number of reasons this didn't happen and we had hoped to reorganise but there just didn't seem time in the busy fixtures programme. I'm not sure if this is going to be played next year, until the fixture list is agreed between all sections.

Get into Golf, introductory morning and the putting challenge were very well supported by the members. Though we did enlist a few more ladies and welcome to them, we need to do a bit extra to encourage more ladies playing. More of this later. Our lady membership has stayed about the same, with 145 lady members, 70 full members and the rest a combination of 9-hole, twilight, social and junior girls. We saw a few ladies leaving us this year for a range of reasons, age, not playing enough golf and moving away. Some of these ladies were very well known and a miss to the club, however, a few have stated they will re-join when their circumstances change.

Our competitions were well supported, especially with the brilliant spell of weather we had over the summer. The flag, golfing waltz and five other non-

counting competitions went ahead with reasonable attendance. Our friendlies with other clubs were also well supported.

The Watt Duffus trophy was won again by our scratch team of Shannon, Kimberley, Carmen and Maryla. Our handicap team didn't manage to hold onto to the trophy but played well. The Golf view League wasn't so successful as unfortunately we couldn't get a team for the last game and were therefore disqualified. We could not get a team for the Lyon Foursomes either. We managed a team for the Deeside Pennant in Portlethan and came out 2nd, with Portlethan winning. Thanks to Lynne Stephen for organising this.

The Captain vs Vice Captain took place on a warm summer evening and I'm delighted to say, the Captains team won. We had an enjoyable 9-hole match and supper afterwards. We hope more ladies will play next year.

The Championship this year was again, poorly supported, none the less we had some excellent golf and very worthy winners. The finals day produced one of the few horrible days of rain and despite this, some great golf was played. Maryla Sime won the Club championship beating Lynne Stephen on the 18th hole with a fantastic across the green putt, clinching the trophy for the first time. A very thrilling game that went up and down. Judith McCaffery beat Nikki Gibb on the 17th hole for the Silver Handicap, again a close match played in a friendly manner. Janice Innes won the Bronze championship, playing Sandra Wilson, with the match going to the 20th hole. Both players (and Caddy) were exhausted.

Because of the low turnout yet again, the committee decided to hold an EGM in an effort to encourage more entrants next year. The EGM was held on the 23rd August with 16 ladies attending. Tamara did an excellent job of presenting options and allowed a fruitful discussion to take place.

In next year's Championship, members will have 6 opportunities to enter. Two days have to be nominated as championship days or ordinary medals from the middle of May to the last week in June. The final day will remain the same, in match play format with semi-finals in the morning and finals in the afternoon. We hope this will give more ladies the opportunity to enter.

The Annual outing was held in Edzell with 18 Ladies attending. Again, we had a lovely day of weather and good fun was had by all.

The Open competitions - County Open, Tri-am (new in 2018), Ladies Open and Open Foursomes were reasonably well attended, but numbers overall have dropped slightly. None the less, the organisation of these events, can only happen with the support of all those who helped out on the desk and as starters. Heather Mackenzie is a wizard and my personal thanks to her for helping this 'daft lassie' with patience and tolerance. I would like to record my thanks to the

seniors who helped at most of our opens and a special mention to Maureen Craigie who helped out at two opens – for a member brand new to golf she has proved herself invaluable. A huge thanks to all who helped.

The highlight of the season for our external competitions was the Coronation 4s regional finals. 120 ladies played representing 60 clubs from far and near across the North. We had a lovely day and lots of positive comments about the course, professional, catering, friendliness and organisation. The representative of Scottish Golf was also very complimentary about all aspects of the club and organisation. Again, a big thanks to all who helped out that day.

The Christmas lunch and dinner are to be held on the 5th December and 14th December. The menu and signup sheet are available now and if we could get numbers by the end of November, it will be very much appreciated.

Our junior section goes from strength to strength with Fraser making a huge effort to encourage more youngsters into golf with school visits and free lessons. Hopefully a few young girls will come through to continue our strength on the county and national scene. Our juniors have been congratulated when out and about to other clubs on their good behaviour and etiquette. Big thanks to our junior convenor and helpers. We should be very proud of our youngsters.

This brings me on to our own young ladies who have surpassed themselves this year and are huge ambassadors for the club.

Shannon McWilliam needs to be congratulated on her outstanding year, especially her Curtis Cup appearance in America. She played very well and gave some of the highly rated Americans a run for their money! Her current World Amateur standing is 174, playing off +3.

She also played in the following:

Portuguese Ladies championship – 7th

South American Championships, Buenos Aires – 13th

South African Sunshine tour – came 1st, winning by 6 shots in the Border Championships and 2nd overall on the tour. South African Women's Masters and winner of the Sally Little trophy for leading amateur – Feb 18

6th March Major Championship invitational – 16th

Under 21 Esmond Trophy march 19 – 44th

Scottish Women's Open (Helen Holm) 4th

Welsh ladies Stroke play May 18 – 14th

Ladies British Open June 18 – 107th

European ladies Amateur Championship, Slovakia July 18 -51st

English Women's Open Amateur stroke play championship

Represented Scotland

European Team championship in Austria

Women's world team championships

Women's home internationals, where Scotland beat the defending champions (Ireland) 6-3

23rd Individual world amateur team championships, Espirito Santa trophy

Represented Aberdeenshire county

County championships – team won the county jamboree and went forward to the Scottish final, which we won for the first time in 32 years

Member of the Watt Duffus winning team representing Aboyne GC.

Kimberley Beveridge

County North East jamboree team member

Scottish County finals – winning team

St Andrews Ladies Junior open

Scottish Women's Open (Helen Holm) made the cut

Played well at St Rule

Came 1st at Ballater and Deeside County open

Member of the Watt Duffus winning team

Carmen Griffiths

Represented Scotland at:

The European Young Masters in Oslo, Norway

European Girls team championship in Sweden

Girls home internationals In Ireland

Girls world team championships In Canada

Aberdeenshire County

Both Ladies and Girls champion

IN County Jamboree team

Part of the winning team in the Watt Duffus

Scottish junior tour winner at Duff house Royal

Scottish junior tour winner at Sotherness

Finished 6th Overall at Scottish Girls open in Monifeith

Finished tied 10th in the Munross girls open at Montrose

Tied 6th in the Stephen Gallagher foundation vase

Tied 3rd in the Scottish schools at Murryshall

Finished tied 7th Scottish girls Amateur Championships

Finished T17th at Scottish Women's match play championship.

Nearly there!! Three of our ladies had hole in ones this year – Joanna D'O, Carmen at Banchory and Nancy O'Brien (Unofficial)

We should record a word of thanks to Colin our greenkeeper and his staff for the marvellous condition of our course and to Colin Redman and his staff for the excellent catering we have had this year.

Finally, I would like to record my own thanks to the committee members, who have worked tirelessly, behind the scenes, keeping everything moving smoothly (we are like the Aboyne swans) swimming gracefully on the surface and paddling away like fury underneath. My very final thanks go to the ladies who have done the flowers over the season, Muffle Munro, Eileen Anderson, Eleanor Anton, Jenny Mackie and Jackie Sutherland. It has been very much appreciated and I'm sure you will join with me in recording a vote of thanks.

Competition Secretary

What an interesting and exciting season it has been at Aboyne. We have enjoyed an exceptionally dry spring and summer in 2018 and this has undoubtedly contributed to some of the marvellous scores achieved in competitions this year, including my first experience of witnessing a hole-in-one by Joanna D'Onghia on the 8th hole. In fact, not one single competition had to be cancelled due to the weather this year.

Numbers entering each competition are similar to last year, varying up to a maximum of 30. It is lovely to see members taking the time to welcome new ladies by playing bounce games and encouraging them to join in competitions. The fun competitions this year, including the new 3 ball better ball, have been popular and provide a gentle introduction for new members and those new to competition. The committee has worked hard at arranging and administering a varied fixture list incorporating eclectics, aggregates, Par and Bogey competitions, greensomes, foursomes, Flag and Texas Scrambles as well as Medals and Stablefords. In addition to the various Silverware competitions there have been 15 SGL Medals this year and 12 Stablefords. Generally, Wednesdays have seen much better attendance than Saturdays, and mornings have been more popular than afternoon or evening time slots. Ladies' fixtures which have been on Sundays have been poorly attended.

In the Club Championship yet again numbers are down on the previous year. There were 9 silver players who entered at least 2 rounds but 2 of these players had to withdraw leaving 4 playing for the scratch Club Championship and 3 playing for the Silver. There were 3 who entered in the bronze division. This compares with 11 silver and 7 bronze last year, so hopefully the changes to be introduced will see an increase in entrants next year.

There were 18 ladies who qualified to play in the Ean Cecil Medals Finals. Of these eighteen, ten participated on the day. The Stableford Finals saw 15 players qualify with 9 playing for the trophy.

Nine Hole Competitions - In April and May some ladies played 9 Hole competitions at 5.45pm before lighter evenings permitted then to play 18 hole competitions in the 5.45- 6.00 pm slots. However, attendance in 9 Hole competitions remains poor with a maximum of 5 entrants but frequently no entrants. This is disappointing, but having 9 hole competitions is an important facility to keep available. Nine players qualified to play in the Morven Cup of whom four competed for it.

Winter Golf Nov 2017 to March 2018 - The Winter Ringer and Winter league have not been run during in 2015, 2016 or 2017 due to lack of numbers. The winter eclectic run by Tamara last year concluded with the winner being Tamara Sebire with an impressive net 50. Runners up were Joanna D'Onghia 61, and Nancy O'Brien 62. Well done ladies! Tamara has kindly agreed to run this again this winter, so many thanks to her. Let's hope the weather is kind to us.

Handicap Secretary

I would like to apologise I'm not able to present my report here in person due to commitments in Holland.

The yearly handicap review took place at the end of last year. The statistics showed a few players could be considered for a handicap change. The Committee decided to

only cut the handicap of players who had played more than 15 competitions during the previous year. This was Margaret Middleton with 1 point.

Continuous handicap reviews have taken place during this year. There were only a few people who could have been considered for an increase. The Committee decided not to do this based on the limited amount of competitions these players had played.

At the start of the season CONGU introduced some changes due to the new World Handicap System, which will be effective from 2020. As a club we adopted the new handicap category 6 for handicaps from 36.5 to 54.0 for the club. Each section of the club was left to decide about their open competitions, but as a ladies' section we included category 6. It was also decided that no special competitions were going to be introduced for players above 28 and 36. Possibly more changes will follow at the start of next season. More information can be found about the WHS on the Scottish Golf website.

For some 9 hole over 75 members there had been confusion whether they could play in any of our competitions. As this membership category doesn't have the benefit of having a handicap, these players are not eligible to take part. When this membership category had been introduced at the start of 2017, competition handicaps of some of these players hadn't been removed. This was amended earlier this year.

There are currently 83 ladies on the handicap list, 4 more than last year. At the start and during the season we lost 8, but welcomed 7 new lady members. 5 ladies have been allocated a handicap and 3 ladies had their handicap re-instated.

This season we saw many ladies playing exceptional golf and improving on their previous game. I'm sure having lessons by our new pro, the fantastic state of our course and the beautiful and long summer we've had all contributed to that so thank you Fraser, Colin & team and weather gods!

The most improved player this year is Janice Innes who started with a handicap of 24.3 and has ended with 16.5; an extraordinary cut of 7.8! Congratulations Janice!!

After 6 years of being in the Ladies Committee as Handicap Secretary it's time for me to handover my duties to someone else. I would like to thank the current and past committee members for a great collaboration during all these years and wish the new committee the very best preparing for the next season.

County Representative

This year 29 Aboyne Ladies joined the County. Overall, Aberdeenshire County Membership has increased however participation still remains down at the open meetings. At our County Open Meeting held on the 3rd of May 61 ladies participated

on the day, Aboyne Ladies among the main prize winners were Carmen, Joanna Janice and Tamara. Other highlights – At the County Championship held at Banchory on the 4th -6th May Carmeen Eakin and Susan Davies both made it through to the quarterfinals in the handicap section. Carmen Griffiths in the scratch section won the championship.

In the golf view league we still have our place in the third division. We participated in the Watt Duffus with two teams. Team one with Kimberley Carmen, Shannon and Maryla won the Watt Duffus Trophy. In other County Open meetings the following ladies were among the prizewinners: Kimberley at Ballater and Deeside and Tamara in the Bronze section at Ballater.

The Aberdeenshire County team won the Inter County jamboree at Strathmore on the 14th of June with Kimberley and Carmen as part of the team. The highlight this year for the Aberdeenshire County team was winning of the County Finals held at Kilmacolm for the first time in trying for 32 years. Kimberley and Shannon were part of this team congratulations to all the ladies.

Finally I would like to thank all those who supported the county this year and represented Aboyne golf club. The AGM and Prize Giving will be at Curling Club Aberdeen on the 10th of November at 11am.

Match Secretary

Another successful season for Aboyne Ladies on their summer friendly match tour. We won 4, lost 2 and drew 1, all played in the spirit of the game, and with no problems from Mother Nature. For our home games, thanks go to the Greenkeeping staff who continued to keep our course in superb condition despite the high temperatures and lack of rainfall this summer. We continue to receive so many favourable comments from visiting teams. Thanks go to Colin and his team at Cecil & Mearns, a change of caterers was noticed by the regular ladies. Again, so many favourable comments. Personally, I would like to thank all the ladies who make these friendly matches happen by simply entering them. To my 'go to' ladies, a huge thank you....you know who you are.

I would also like to encourage those new to the club to enter next year, you will really enjoy the opportunity to play other courses and of course a blether, in a very friendly atmosphere.

Treasurer

The accounts are in the final throes of being prepared ready for the auditor. Once the accounts have been approved they will be put up on the noticeboard in the locker room.

The main items of note are that we took in £1092 in competition fees for the year. This will be paid out in prizes to our prizewinners for the season. The amount raised in our charity competition was £93.90 and we raised £784.65 through all our raffles over the season. The Christmas Hampers (2017) raised £490.

Overall therefore, the funds for the ladies section are looking healthy and we expect to have a final balance in the region of £1400.00.

5.Nominations of Committee Members

Unfortunately, no nominations had been received for the Committee, and with a current member standing down, this will leave the committee with reduced numbers to run the ladies section. An appeal was made by the committee for helpers to come forward to support some activities (usually blessed with good support) and also that those who have previously been on the committee, consider a 2nd turn.

6.Trial Late Entry Process

Following on from the request at last year's AGM and the work by the committee to establish a process, it has been identified that the process has not been utilised, other than perhaps on two occasions. It was felt therefore, that discontinuing the process was appropriate and that booking into competitions and withdrawing if necessary, would be the way forward.

There was a suggestion from the floor by Kay Powrie, about delaying the closing time for entering the competitions and it was agreed by those present that this may assist. The committee will look at a later time closing time, beyond the current 1730 hours for both Wednesday and Saturday competitions.

7.Wednesday 9 hole competitions

Given the reducing committee and the admin required to run the 9 hole competitions at present, sometimes for minimal entrants, the committee advised those present that the Director of Golf had agreed to undertake to operate the 9 hole competitions as a walk on medal, similar to the Gents Wednesday medal, on a weekly basis. Whilst the mechanics of this have not yet been thrashed out, it was felt that this was a good way of retaining the 9 hole competitions.

Heather Mackenzie then queried if the 9 hole competition could apply to gents too. It was agreed that the committee would raise this with the gents section/director of golf.

8. Update from Director of Golf

Get Into Golf:

We ran two ladies 'Get Into Golf' coaching programmes in the Summer both of which comprised of x4 90 minute coaching sessions over a 4 week period. The sessions received a lot of great feedback and gave all women who took part an opportunity to discover the benefits to the game learning the various technical aspects whilst meeting new people.

From a personal stand point I think the coaching was well received however in future may need to find a link to get ladies who participated more involved in club activities thereafter to sell membership. (Not always possible for various reasons)

Ladies Group Coaching:

We ran x6 60-minute coaching sessions at the start of the season covering a range of technical topics mainly in short game.

Ladies Fun Putting Challenge:

A very well subscribed Tuesday evening for a fun putting challenge which had approx. 30 – 40 ladies attend many of whom were not club members. Also, this event saw a younger age demographic attend which was great!

The night was designed to be quite different and focus on the social benefits of the game as opposed to playing the game itself to show potential golf club members that golf is FUN and not a game dictated by rules etc.

Whilst the evening was probably a little over subscribed (at no point did I ever expect that) it was quite popular, this may be due to a number of factors.

How can we get more ladies into golf?

Any thoughts / ideas or things that other clubs may have trialled that Aboyne could also put to the test?

Member Get Member:

After huge success last year, we will once again run the member get member.

- Introduce a new member and receive 20% off your membership subscription for 2019/20
- The new member will also receive 20% off their membership subscription for 2019/20
- The new member will receive 10% off in year two
- You could therefore sign up five new members and pay nothing for your membership in 2019/20.

If you therefore know of anyone who may be interested in joining Aboyne next year please contact Fraser Dunlop for further information.

9. AOCB/Q & A/Discussion

Tamara Sebire spoke about the Club Championship and the revised format following the EGM and encouraged members to participate. Whilst the fixture list has been drafted, the overarching Club fixture list has not been finalised and the date of Finals cannot yet be broadcast. Similarly, Tamara praised the County competitions and encouraged people to play in them.

Mary Burgess raised a point of order in terms of the committee members for next year and attendees were advised that all ladies except Fenneke were remaining on the committee. Janice was nominated to be Captain – proposed by Mary Burgess and seconded by Angela Mitchell. Carmeen was nominated to be Vice Captain – proposed by Heather Mackenzie and seconded by Maryla Sime.

The appeal for donations for Christmas Hampers and for selling raffle tickets was made – sets of raffle tickets were handed out to members present and others have been left in the ladies locker room for uplifting. Raffle tickets are £1 each.

Christmas Meals – the arrangements for the Christmas meals on the 5th and the 14th were confirmed. A sign up sheet and the menu for determining choice were available and will be placed in the locker room after the AGM. Sign up is by 30/11/18 and for those attending the Evening Meal, a cost of £10 to cover present and entertainment is requested to be paid on sign up.

Liz advised everyone present that she had raised at Council the desire for the ladies toilets off the locker room to be refurbished and that fundraising will take place in the hope that the Club will also give some financial support. The Council have agreed to some quotes being obtained. There was much support from the floor and members felt that this was long overdue.

The potential for a Competition sub committee was raised as an option to ease some of the demand in relation to closing competitions. The idea has been stolen from another club where this works on a rota basis – potentially those on the sub committee doing a one week in 6 or 7 depending on the number of volunteers. A sheet was available for volunteers and will be placed in the locker room to try and attract others.

There was a request from Kay Powrie for the flag competition to become a counting competition. Angela Mitchell advised that it has not been a counting competition for some years. This aspect was apparently explored a few years ago and confirmed as a non-counting competition.

Carmeen advised that she has set up a WhatsApp group for winter golf, so if anyone wanted to be added to this, then let her know. This is primarily for anyone who may want to play on a Wednesday in addition to the Thursday golf.

Alison Reid enquired as to the response to the change from a Wednesday to a Thursday. Liz advised that some, who have days off from work on a Wednesday, are going to continue to play on that day, weather permitting. The turn out for a Thursday is unknown as some people do have alternative commitments.

Tamara advised she will create a chart for the eclectic over the winter (fun) and it will be a player's responsibility to update their scores. The Thursday will be a turn up and play. Times will be added to BRS for booking but a 'draw' will be done on the day.

Dorothy Keir enquired if there was anything arranged for the next two Wednesdays and everyone was updated that winter golf commences on 1st November.

Liz thereafter handed out balls, medals and monetary gifts to the prizewinners.

Janice thanked Liz for stepping into the breach as Lady Captain and presented her with a gift and bouquet of flowers on behalf of the Ladies section.