

19 members attended observing social distancing, and wearing face masks, in accordance with Government regulations. There were 22 apologies. The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Proposed by Terry Cave. Seconded by Jill Partridge. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

No proposals had been received.

Teresa Johnson gave her Secretary's Report

I could never have imagined that when I completed my 5 years in office, we would be having our AGM in such socially distanced circumstances. It has been a challenge to adjust to this different way of doing everything, but we are so lucky, that we are able to be outdoors, playing golf. Hopefully in 2021 we will resume all our usual Thursday competitions, so that we can play for the trophies, as well as having fun in the team events.

Although there is no presentation of cups and trophies this year, vouchers have been given to the winners of the 2019 Eclectic, Birdie and Partridge Competitions.

Eclectic: Division 1 Dianne Lowe Division 2 Terry Cave

Birdie Tree: Joint winners: Jean Jacques and Loraine Whittle

Partridge Tree: Julie Orr

The notice with details for the entry to these competitions, which start in January 2021, is in the locker room, so I hope everyone will take part.

The 2019/2020 Jane Wright Competition had to be abandoned because of the national lockdown, but the entry money paid in, has been transferred to the 2020/2021 competition. The notice with full details is on the notice board in the locker room.

I would like to thank everyone for their support and acceptance of the changes, which we have had to make during these last few months. It has been good fun working alongside Rya, and I wish her a happy and successful year doing a second term as our Lady Captain. What a brave lady! I'm sure she will be well supported by her Vice-Captain and new committee. I would like to thank all the committee members I have worked with over the past 5 years, with special thanks to Jean for her help and support as Handicap Secretary.

The presentation of a floral arrangement together with a gift card was made to Teresa by the Lady Captain, in appreciation of all the work done by her for the Ladies Section.

There was no **Treasurer's Report**, but Julie had produced the balance sheet for the Ladies Fund, and copies were available for all those present. A cheque for £1204.50 was given to Rya for her Captain's Charity.

As Lady Captain Rya Carter was continuing for a second year in office, she asked to defer her report until later in the meeting

There was no presentation of the Cups and Trophies this year, as no competitions had been played because of the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions.

Elections.

There being no other written nominations, the unopposed election of Mrs Rya Carter as Lady Captain then took place. There being no other written nominations for the position of Lady Vice- Captain, the unopposed election of Mrs Loraine Whittle as Lady Vice- Captain then took place. There had been no nominations for the position of Ladies Secretary. There were 4 nominations for the 4 vacancies on the committee, so Mrs Dehlia Ricketts, Mrs Hilary Mathews, Mrs Wendy Trimnell and Mrs Ann Wakeling were welcomed to the Committee.

Lady Captain's Address

Well, what can I say about this past year. In our wildest dreams we could not have foreseen this crisis, a virus pandemic, which has changed all our lives for the past 6 months.

My guess is that few of us were familiar with the word pandemic, but since March we have learnt a few more words and things that we'd rather not. One of the hardest things has been the forced social- distancing.

Apart from enjoying golf, a large part of the enjoyment is the après-golf, when coming back into the clubhouse for a bite to eat, a drink and a chat. A great time to catch up with our friends, and not to forget our social members. Until this was no longer allowed did many of us realise, how much we missed this social interaction. For some of us it is the only way to meet up with old friends, outside one's home. Unlike men we are not likely to meet up in the pub. Our golf club is also our social club, and is a large part of our social life.

Going back over the past golfing year. We did have successful Christmas Fair and a very enjoyable Christmas lunch at the Lord Bute, and a Christmas party at the club.

If memory serves me right, we missed more golf days due to the excessive rainfall this past winter, than I can recall in

all the years I have been a member. The course was closed due to water-logging, or we were rained off in the middle of a game. But then life as we knew it came to an abrupt halt. The day after Mother's Day the country went into a Nation- wide lock-down. Golf courses were forced to close. Something I never understood, since golf is the one game where social distancing is a given.

We all heaved a sigh of relief when we were allowed back in the course in May.

Most of us have learned new skills, like booking on- line and signing in via our telephone, i-pads or laptops.

As if to partially compensate for this terrible state of affairs, the weather, after lock-down, has been amazingly good.

Only during the last few weeks has the course been closed a few of days, due to the excessive rainfall.

Too bad we had to have the AGM today and not next week, when the kitchen will be open and after the meeting we could have enjoyed afternoon tea, or even a celebratory glass.

I've decided to continue with my chosen charity "the Waterlily Project", since we never managed to share with you the aims of this local charity. I hope we will be able to do so in the coming year, and perhaps meet at their cafe for lunch. Our fun days out could not happen either. I like to be optimistic, and believe we will be able to do so next year, and that we will have our Lady Captain's Away Day at the Ampfield Golf and Country club, as we had planned to do this year.

In this time of "corona" it is difficult to make plans for the coming year, but the committee will be prepared, and as soon as the lock-down restrictions are eased, or better still lifted completely, we will swing into action and arrange our usual yearly playing and events calendar.

Last but not least I would like to thank my committee members for doing a difficult job during this exceptional period in our lives.

First and foremost Teresa, without her I could not, and would not have taken on the job as Lady Captain. After five years of hard labour, on and off the course, she is retiring as Ladies Secretary, and I for one will miss her advice and help more than I can say. But she deserves to be let loose, and enjoy the club and golf without any responsibility and worries about the smooth running of the ladies section.

Other retiring committee members are

Sue Hoare, with her experience as long term club member, lady captain and committee member, her help and advice has been greatly appreciated.

Val Blake, another great lady to have on the committee with long term experience of the running the ladies section..

Julie Satchwell, who was brave enough to step in last year when we needed a treasurer.

Thank you Julie for your help and efforts bringing our finances to book. A great balancing act!!

Liz Smith, a stalwart who agreed to do an extra year to make sure we had a full committee, and assist with the running of the club in any capacity needed on the day.

Sue Taylor, who will stay on for another year. Her experience as previous lady captain and committee member will bring much needed help and advice to the committee.

Jean Chuter who is staying on as our Handicap Secretary, for doing a sterling job. Much appreciated by all.

When preparing this speech and listing all these committee ladies it dawned on me that I must be the least experienced member of this exalted group of ladies.

As such I am still surprised I was asked, and subsequently asked again, to stay on as Lady Captain for another year. I am aware the pond of prospective lady captains is very small, but that does not take away from the fact that it is an honour to be asked.

To end with, you have seen the list of our new committee members. We have a very good team who will bring years of committee experience with them. I welcome to the committee Ann Wakeling, Dehlia Ricketts, Wendy Trimmell, Hilary Mathews and Loraine Whittle who has agreed to be our vice-captain. If anyone can keep me in check it is Loraine.

Well ladies, I probably could or should have said more, but I cannot think of it at the moment.

Maybe tomorrow, As Scarlet O'Hara famously said, in my favourite film, "Gone with the wind", "tomorrow is another day".

I will end by wishing and hoping (cue Dusty Springfield) for a speedy end to the current crisis, and in the expectation that we will be able to get back to playing unrestricted golf, have competitions and friendly matches with other clubs, and all the fun of being a golf club member, on and off the course.

A.O.B.

There were no matters raised. The meeting closed at 2.20pm.