

**Minutes of the Ladies Annual Meeting held on 8th October, 2021 at 6 p.m.
in the Dining Room at The Blairgowrie Golf Club.**

Welcome

The Ladies Captain welcomed all the ladies and thanked them for coming. 29 Full members attended with 7 Wee Course Ladies present.

Apologies - 23 Apologies were received.

The ladies were asked to be upstanding for a minute's silence to remember those ladies who passed away this year – Etta Anderson, Lottie Hally and Aileen Kean. Also remembered was Jan Kennedy as she had given up her membership the year before.

Minutes

With regard to the Minutes, we were unable to hold our meeting last year due to the Covid 19 pandemic and the 2019 Minutes were posted online last September; as no matters arising were intimated, they were duly proposed and seconded. A copy is displayed in the upstairs ladies' locker room.

Competition Report

Because we were unable to hold our Annual Meeting due to the Covid19 pandemic in 2020, it is prudent that we should record the results of the main competitions which were played last year. No knock out competitions were played but the main 2020 winners are:

Ladies Champion	Emily Aird
Division 2 Champion	Katie Chapman
Sophie's Trophy	Jacqui Landsburgh
Strokeplay Champions for the McPherson Quaichs	Emily Aird (Scratch) and Heather Anderson (Handicap)
Past Lady Captain's Day	Winner of the Claret Jug was Janice Lang
Stanley Clark Trophy (Winter League)	Katie Chapman
Millennium Trophy	Christine Ogilvie
<u>Wee Course</u>	
Catherine Patterson Trophy	Morna Bell
Allison Trophy	Norah Hay

This year the main competition winners are:

Ladies Champion	Megan Ashley
Division 2 Champion	Hilary Inglis
Sophie's Trophy	Claire Bidwell
Strokeplay Champions for the McPherson Quaichs	Susan Arbuckle (Scratch) Sue Waddell (Handicap)
Ladies Captain v Ladies Vice Captain	The Captain's team won the Friendship Bowl
Past Lady Captain's Day	Winner of the Claret Jug was Fiona Johnston
Millennium Trophy	Denise Ginley
Jessie Valentine Trophy	Barbara Lyburn
Coronation Trophy	Gill Tissell
Gellatly Rosebowls	Noreen Fordyce and Janette Hamilton
<u>Wee Course</u>	
Catherine Patterson Trophy	Sheila Ridgway
Allison Trophy	Ann Henry

The full result sheets for both 2020 and 2021 are on the notice board in the upstairs ladies' locker room.

Friendly Match and Handicap League Report

All our friendly and Handicap League matches were cancelled in 2020 because of restrictions in place regarding the pandemic. This year proved a challenging one as some of the matches from last year were cancelled, some had rolled over to similar dates and quite a number of matches were unconfirmed. However, our ladies rose to the occasion and all matches were organised and played. For games at Blairgowrie, the teams met in the East Lounge in the Clubhouse which continues to work very well. Apart from one away match which was cancelled, and another with a restricted team, all matches were enjoyed and were well supported.

With regard to the Handicap League, it was intimated that it had proved difficult to organise teams for these matches because of the evening start. The Ladies Committee will be addressing this for next year as it may be possible to move some matches to a Sunday.

Scratch League Report

Given the declining numbers of clubs actually participating in the SL (and its very near death) it was decided to reduce the number of players per team from 5 to 3. This then meant that 4 teams would be participating - Blairgowrie, Pitlochry, Crieff and Muckhart. Due to a mix up by Muckhart regarding dates, our first match was to be rescheduled, however this never happened due to fullness of diaries. The SL itself never really got going after that. All our players were then busy with County representation and other tournaments of standing. I'm not sure how many, if any, of the other teams managed to get their fixtures played. I fear it's only a matter of time before the last nail goes into the coffin of the SL in P&K. It's a pretty sad indictment of ladies golf with the spread of low handicappers seemingly limited to just a couple of clubs in P&K at the moment. On a positive note there was success for the club at County level by four of our lady members; Megan Ashley became County Champion for 2021. She, Emily Aird, Katy Alexander and Jillian Milne were part of the P&K ladies County Team which won the North Division Inter County Championship held at Monifieth in June 2021. Katy, Megan and Jillian then went on to represent P&K at the Scottish County Finals at Forres in August where, alongside their teammates, they were successful in winning the tournament, thus becoming Scottish County Champions for the first time since 1953 (68 years).

Wee Course Ladies Report

The Wee Course ladies are now entering online with the office doing the draws and producing results. There has been a good turnout on Fridays with 25 ladies playing in the Season and 16-18 ladies playing most weeks. Fixtures are similar to last year with 2 medals, an eclectic and a non-counting game each month. The Texas Scramble in May with the Committee and some main course ladies was enjoyed by all. It is good to have a mixture of members playing with the Wee Course ladies. The Allison Trophy is played over 3 rounds, usually in May, June and July and this year 14-16 ladies took part. This Competition is open to all lady members of 65 years and over with a handicap of 21 and above. The last trophy of the year, the Catherine Patterson Trophy played in September, had a good entry of 21 ladies.

Shirley Irvine is stepping down this year and Jeannie Webster and Heather Welsh will represent the Wee Course ladies, working with the Ladies Captain and Committee. Shirley's thanks to the Ladies Captain, Neil and his team, Sean and the office staff and Gary and Elaine for their help and support over the season were recorded.

Shirley was thanked for all she had achieved as Wee Course Ladies Representative and Jeannie and Heather were congratulated and welcomed to their new role. Shirley was presented with a gift on behalf of the ladies for looking after the Wee Course ladies so successfully.

Ladies Captain's Report

I had hoped that by the start of my second year in office our fixtures would have returned to as near normal as possible but, because of the restrictions in numbers still in force for Covid 19, we had to cancel the ladies Christmas Lunch and at the end of December another national lockdown was introduced meaning the Clubhouse once more had to be closed; we were permitted to play golf but even that was thwarted due to a snowstorm with the courses being covered in snow for January and February. As the lockdown was further extended until the end of April, the Winter competitions were abandoned and the fixtures, including the Ladies Invitation Day, were either postponed or cancelled. No shotgun starts were allowed because of restricted numbers for gatherings.

It was with regret that earlier this year Nora Bennet, my Vice Captain, decided to step down from office; in an effort to remedy this, all the ladies were sent an email to ask for nominations for Ladies Vice Captain but none were received. After consideration, Gill Tissell kindly agreed to take over the post and was duly co-opted by the Ladies Committee to act as Ladies Vice Captain until our Annual Meeting in October. Gill moved to Murthly in October 2017, having come from Hertfordshire, although she was born and brought up in Stanley. She was Lady Captain in 2007 at Caddington Golf Club in Bedfordshire. She joined our Club in April 2018 and was elected to the Ladies Committee in 2019 as Ladies Secretary.

The Columbine Cup was postponed until late May and, out of 24 original entries, only 16 ladies were able to play so it was agreed that the match would go ahead this year with only 16 ladies and 16 gents. The weather was very warm and thunder and lightning towards the end meant one or two teams had to come in early. The competition was fierce but the Senior Gentlemen won the Cup.

There are quite a few new lady members who have been made welcome by the ladies and are now playing regularly in our competitions. We have enjoyed a good summer which meant that our competitions were played in dry and sunny conditions except for the Ladies Captain's Day on 6th August which was cancelled at short notice due to heavy rain. 56 ladies, including Wee Course ladies, were to have taken part and it would have been an excellent day; however nearly half the ladies came along to enjoy complimentary coffee and cakes and a chat.

Past Captain's Day was followed by a very enjoyable lunch and Fiona Johnston won the Claret Jug and Jean Laburn was the winner of the competition on the Wee Course. Thanks to Margaret Hunter for setting up the information for the Commemorative Menu.

The Ladies Captain v Ladies Vice Captain's match was re-scheduled for the first Friday in October and, luckily, the weather was kind. The Captain's team won - the result of 5½ to 4½ could have gone either way and hinged on the last team's match which was halved. The players enjoyed a complimentary glass of wine or mocktail after play and the Friendship Bowl was duly presented.

The Ladies Captain thanked all the ladies who served on Committee during her term of office for carrying out their duties so pleasantly and efficiently during two very challenging years. She also thanked all the golf club staff, the office and the Pro Shop for their help and advice, to Jillian Milne for organising the Scratch League, to the starters for getting the ladies started on time, and to the caterers, Elaine and Gary who are moving on to pastures new and we wish them well in their new venture.

My time being your Captain has passed so quickly - I cannot quite believe two years have passed since I took over from Fiona. I have to say it was different to what I expected but it has been a very enjoyable experience and I am grateful for all the support and friendliness which I have encountered along the way. I thank you all for the confidence you placed in me and it has been a privilege to have served as your Ladies Captain.

The winners of the Captain's Farewell competition (3 clubs & a putter) were: Division 1 – Noreen Fordyce – net 80 (bih); Runner up Janice Lang also 80 and Division 2 – Katie Chapman with net 78 and Runner up Fanny Christie 81 (bih). The Ladies Captain presented these ladies with a small prize.

Election of office bearers and committee members

The nominations are:

Ladies Captain - Gill Tissell – proposed by Margaret Kerr and seconded by Jo Stewart;

Ladies Vice Captain - Sue Waddell – proposed by Gill Tissell and seconded by Margaret Kerr; and

Ladies Committee – Jo Stewart will continue to serve for a further year. Jacqui Landsburgh has completed 2 years but does not wish to continue.

The nominations for Committee are:

Heather Dawson – proposed by Fiona Johnston and seconded by Margaret Hunter;

Elaine Robson – proposed by Mary Miller and seconded by Katie Chapman; and

Jennifer Livingston – proposed by Meriel Walker and seconded by Kathy Cameron.

As there were three nominations but only two vacancies a ballot was required – the ladies were asked to complete the voting slips and passed them over to Margaret Hunter or Kathy Cameron.

Whilst the votes were being counted it was advised that Neil Cameron has intimated that he is to have an intake of new items for the ladies later this month and he will be having the usual sale later. Keep a look out for the dates for this.

Noreen Fordyce has said unfortunately, due to the current situation with Covid restrictions, the Tuesday afternoon Bridge sessions will not begin as usual in October. The situation will be reviewed in January and, if things have improved, we may be able to resume then.

The ballot result was in favour of Heather Dawson and Elaine Robson. They were congratulated on being successful for appointment to the Ladies Committee.

Appointment of Ladies Captain

There being no other nominations, Gill was duly appointed as Ladies Captain. Gill was then congratulated and welcomed as the new Ladies Captain and presented with the Ladies Captain's badge of office – and it was hoped that wearing it will give her great pride and pleasure. The ladies then wished Gill and her Committee a very successful year. Gill was then presented with a small gift from the outgoing Ladies Captain and in return Gill presented the former Ladies Captain with the Past Ladies Captain's brooch and a beautiful bouquet of flowers.

Gill then took the Chair and gave her acceptance speech.

Dear Lady Members,

Thank you for approving my nomination as Ladies Captain which I accept with gratitude, enthusiasm - and not a little trepidation. As most of you know, I have been a member of this club for approximately 3½ years and, looking around today, I recognise that I am in the company of many long-standing members with many more years of experience of the workings of the Ladies Section of our Club. Many of you have offered your support and advice, for which I am very grateful, and I am sure with your help, and with the assistance of the new Committee, we can have a successful and enjoyable year. I am looking forward to representing the interests of all our lady members, and so, whether you are just getting into golf, or can only play at weekends, or whether you prefer to play social golf with your friends, or you enter into all the Club events with gusto - I aim to ensure all your voices are heard.

It is pleasing to note that we have had several new members this year and I am sure we all look forward to including you in our games in future. The golfing syllabus for the next year is packed as usual and, Covid willing, I look forward to seeing some great golf, varied social events, new friendships being formed and, most of all, I hope we are going to have fun!

One new initiative which we are trialling this winter is a Sunday league with Crail, Anstruther, St. Michael's and Ladybank. Initially we will have two home and two away matches between October and March with teams of six players in a betterball format. The first of these matches is being held at Anstruther on Sunday, for which the team has been picked; the next is at Ladybank on 24th October and you can sign up for that one now. Look out for more information on these matches as the season progresses. This might be of particular interest to ladies who work and who are not normally available for the midweek friendly matches. If this trial gets a warm reception, it may be extended to include more matches and teams of eight.

I think we can all agree that the last two years have been very challenging ones for Margaret, our outgoing captain, but she has taken it all in her stride, adapting to last minute Covid-related changes in the timetable, ensuring we managed to play nearly all the usual competitions in a very short space of time. And she has done it all in her usual calm and efficient way. I know she started her first year full of ideas for the coming season, many of which could not be fulfilled, but she generously agreed to do a second year to see us through the crisis. I think you will all agree that she has done a marvellous job and deserves to put her feet up (at least a little). Thank you Margaret for proposing me as your Vice-Captain and I will do my best to justify your confidence. Your knowledge and advice will be invaluable to me in the coming year. On behalf of the Ladies Section, and as a token of our appreciation, I would like to present you with these flowers.

Appointment of Ladies Vice-Captain

Regarding the appointment of the Ladies Vice-Captain, there being no other nomination, Sue Waddell was duly appointed. Sue has been a member of Blairgowrie for 16 years and she is also a member of Alyth Golf Club where she served on the Committee and captained and organised the Scratch team, and was Lady Captain in 2015. Her previous experience as well as her Tigger-like enthusiasm will, I am sure, make her a great asset to our Club. I am looking forward very much to working with her.

Thank you to all three ladies who stood for the Committee and I look forward to working with the new Committee.

Dates for the Diary

- Turkey Trot - Friday 29th October
- Winter League starts on 5th November (remember fairway mats will be required - in competitions these may only be used on the fairway, but in bounce games you may, if you wish, use them in the semi/rough). Because of the introduction of the World Handicapping System this year, the way in which we play our winter games may have to change. I don't have much information at present, but discussions will be taking place shortly to clarify how we should proceed.
- Prize Givings: because no prize giving took place last year, the 2020 winners will receive their prizes on the evening of Friday 19th November. The 2021 prize giving will take place a week later on the 26th and the list of winners for both sessions is on the noticeboard in the locker room. The prize money has already been paid into the winners' accounts.
- Club AGM - Thursday 2nd December
- Ladies Christmas lunch - Friday 10th December - I am assured we will have caterers in place.

Any Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 6.35pm with a vote of thanks to the Chair.