



OAK PARK GOLF CLUB - LADIES SECTION

MINUTES OF THE 24TH LADIES GENERAL MEETING HELD IN THE CLUBHOUSE ON THURSDAY 18TH MARCH 2010

40 Ladies attended the meeting.

Retiring Lady Captain.	Lucy Church
Incoming Lady Captain	Margaret Church
Retiring Handicap Secretary	Claire Weedon
Hon. Secretary	Pat Bergkvist

1 WELCOME

Richard Pilbury, General Manager of Oak Park Golf Club, opened the meeting at 19.45 and welcomed everyone to the Ladies 24th Annual General Meeting.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies have been received from Lyla Alleman, Shona Gilchrist, Ann Hatch, Sheila Waite, Mary Williams.

3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST LAGM HELD ON 17TH MARCH 2009

Proposed by Helen Mills and seconded by Maggie Core.

4 REPORT OF HONORARY HANDICAP SECRETARY

Chairman, Lady Captain and lady members. Good evening to you all.

Two years ago I was appointed as the Ladies Assistant Handicap Secretary at Oak Park and to be fair, at that time, I had no idea how exacting the role would be. Sheila Purvis and I had a very happy year recording qualifying competitions and managing the resultant handicap adjustments. I learnt how to use the club computer and nervously entered the ladies qualifying competitions praying that I would tick and click the right boxes! I found that there was always help at hand and gradually became more confident.

Last March when I was appointed Handicap Secretary I felt confident and competent. However, I have found that the regulation of all the EWGA and CONGU rules have

been really challenging to understand and apply. Suddenly everyone assumes you bedtime reading has taken on a new meaning! have become an overnight expert! My understanding of the definition of an expert is an 'ex' is a 'has been' and a 'spurt' is 'a drip under pressure!' Probably quite apt in my case! Needless to say I have spent many an evening studying my new 'bible' and bedtime reading has taken on a new meaning.

I have found that one of the most rewarding roles of being Handicap Secretary is informing a lady member that they have achieved their first handicap. I can remember how thrilled I was and delivering good news is always so enjoyable.

In December the Handicap Committee held the Annual Handicap Review. The result of this review was that two ladies had a playing decrease of one shot and two ladies had increases of one and three shots. These results are displayed on the Oak Park members' website and in the ladies cloakroom.

There has been one major change to the CONGU rules during this year. This is the introduction of active and inactive handicaps to all players who currently have a CONGU handicap. From January 1st this year only members who have completed three or more qualifying competitions (including Supplementary Scores, 9 hole qualifying competitions and Away scores) in the previous year, (That is from 1st January to the 31st December) will have an active handicap. Anyone with fewer than this number will have an inactive handicap and this will be indicated on their handicap certificate with an 'i' after their actual handicap calculation. Any member can elevate an inactive handicap to an active handicap by playing in the requisite number of qualifiers for that year. Qualifying results of fewer than three in any year cannot be carried over. There are certain exemptions to this and they are, for reasons of injury and illness, members who transfer from another club who have completed three qualifiers prior to moving, and to golfers new to the game who are being issued their first CONGU handicap. An inactive handicap can still be used for social golf and those competitions for which an active handicap is not an entry condition. A rolling 12 months qualification will be acceptable for knockout and other designated competitions at Oak Park.

Generally nil returns will not be accepted as part of the 3 qualifying scores for active and inactive handicaps. However in a Medal competition, if a player picks up at several holes but completes her card, this is a N/R for the competition and counts for handicapping. In Stableford competitions, as players are encouraged to pick up if they are unable to score a point, it is more difficult to tell if someone has walked in after completing only a few holes. However, as these are competition scores, checks can be made from the marker's card. It is important to understand that if a player walks in after a few holes and has not attempted to play 18, the card will not be accepted as a N/R nor used for handicapping purposes. Only in extenuating circumstances or at the discretion of the committee will a N/R be accepted towards the 3 qualifying scores.

We currently have 870 members at Oak Park of which 139 are lady members. From this number 84 ladies hold a current handicap certificate, 69 are active and 15 are inactive. The Handicap Committee has allotted eight new handicaps this year, which

is very encouraging and there are a few more in the pipeline.

I feel it would be appropriate to mention at this point that several of the ladies who have achieved their handicaps this year started playing in the Friday roll-up which is run by Julia Ranger and Jean Deverill. The encouragement they have been given by these ladies, and other members who play on the nine-hole course in this weekly competition, is reflected in the results that have been achieved. Thank you ladies.

I have had an amazing assistant in Maggie who is very adept with all the functionality of handicapping so I know that I am leaving the role in very good hands. Thank you for your support Maggie. I would also like to thank Alison for always ensuring that the weekend scores are on the computer and the printouts on the board. The teamwork has been brilliant!

I would now like to ask Lucy to present the following prizes.....

5 **RETIRING LADY CAPTAIN'S REPORT**

Good Evening Richard, Ladies and 2010 Club Captain, Brian. Welcome to the 24th LGM.

First of all many congratulations to all the Trophy winners this evening and it is by no mean feat achieving success on our challenging golf course here at Oak Park. I would also like to mention all those who have represented Oak Park Ladies in National Competitions during the year:

Daily Mail Foursomes: Alyson Paterson and Lucy Church

Mail on Sunday: Alyson Paterson, Lucy Church, Margaret Church, Rosemary Pinchin and Gill Hawker

County Centenary Foursomes: Mary Williams and Jacqueline Davis

Australian Spoons: Angie Johnston and Claire Weedon

Coronation Foursomes: Angie Johnston and Claire Weedon

Knight Cup: Alyson Paterson and Margaret Church

Ping Qualifier: Wendy White and Linda Warren

Our Major in-House Competition Winners are:

Damerell Trophy: Judy Gudgeon

Lady Champion: Wendy Nightingale, Runner Up: Aly Paterson

Handicap Salver: Ada Holmes, Runner Up: Maggie Core

The Lady Captain's Trophy: Hilary King

The Autumn Scratch Trophy: Margaret Church

Other Trophy achievers are:

Ladies Summer Singles Winner: Linda Warren

Runner-up: Lisa Grainger

Summer Plate: Alyson Paterson

Ladies Doubles Winners: Alyson Paterson and Linda Warren

Runners-up: Rosemary Pinchin and Hilary King

Summer Eclectic: Claire Weedon

Grandma's Goblet: Gilly Strachan

Rabbits Trophy: Alison Lewis

The Round Robin: Elaine McCarthy

I would like to mention that we have already had success in our first round of the Mail on Sunday beating Hartley Wintney here at home on 5th February this year. Players were Lucy Church, Margaret Church, Aly Paterson, Rosemary Pinchin and Linda Warren. The 2nd Round was even better than the first, we have had a buy as the club we were supposed to be playing couldn't raise a team, so we are through to the 3rd round and I believe we are playing The Army Golf Club at Aldershot. Good luck for that.

We again took part in the STONEHAM CUP; unfortunately we did not qualify through to the next round but a good result winning 4 out of 6 matches. 27 games in total which was the same number of games as winners of the group.

Thanks are due to the players and caddies and Linda Warren who organised our matches like clockwork and some golf instruction to the ladies by Gavin Grenville-Wood.

I would like to wish us well in the STONEHAM CUP again this year.

The Ladies weekly and main events throughout the year have all been very well attended and the weather has been kind too.

The Ladies Main events wouldn't be the same without the added bonus of the half-way house boys, and this year my grateful thanks are due to Hugh Lovatt, Norman Adam, Brian Matthews, Tony Hughes and Allen Leech who, without fail, set up camp at the 14th with refreshments and goodies offering encouraging words before we attempt the hill.

At each event, whether Social or a Ladies Main Competition, there are the Flower Ladies, who not only make our locker room look bright and cheerful each week but also give their time to help at our Main and Social events.

But there is one lady who is hanging up her vases for a while, who is very talented in this department and never ceases to amaze us with her creations - that lady is Linda Warren and I would like to present her with a little 'thank you' from the Ladies Section.

Our Ladies friendly matches have all been very successful, we played 7, of which we

won 6 and halved 1.

These matches are a great introduction to matchplay; they are friendly and fun. To meet new friends or see old ones and a chance to play other courses. Have a bite to eat afterwards and look forward to the return match.

The same goes for the Mixed Section. We, as ladies, play a very important part in these events, not only in the organising of the monthly mixed Sunday and Mid-week monthly competitions but also in the weekend friendly matches. We have played 5, result being WON 3, HALVED 1 and LOST 1.

The Friday Ladies roll up which takes place on the Village Course has gone from strength to strength this year and thanks are due to Julia Ranger and Jean Deverill for injecting their encouragement, enthusiasm and commitment with these ladies, some of whom have gained their handicaps and joined the Woodland Course competitions.

Thanks are now due to RICHARD PILBURY and his team in the Office for their support and help they have given me during the year.

To CRAIG and his GREENKEEPING TEAM for working continuously on our courses and keeping them in superb condition.

To the CATERING AND BAR STAFF.

The PRO SHOP TEAM who have kept a close eye on my tee times for the events and making sure I didn't mess up too much

To the SOCIAL COMMITTEE, COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE and of course to that very nice man THE TREASURER, Roger White who has had his work cut out dealing with me and the finances!

Thank you to NORMAN ADAM the Club captain, who has been a solid and sound source of advice to me throughout the year.

Our Charity this year was Disability Challengers, an organisation concentrating in giving disabled children experiences in play and learning in a controlled environment and also giving rest bite to their families, therefore, a BIG thank you to you all for your generosity in raising just over £21,000.

Thanks must go to my husband Michael, who worked very hard using his contacts to help raise monies for our charity and for his unconditional support.

Thank you to MY COMMITTEE for their hard work, continual support and our entertaining meetings we have had over the year.

Now, to conclude my year – I believe The Ladies Section is a thriving and energetic Section full of fun and spirit and I am so proud to be part of it.

It has been an honour and a privilege to be your Lady Captain and I have enjoyed the year very much thanks to all of you for the love, support and encouragement you

have shown and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

It now brings me finally to thank very much my vice-captain, Margaret, who has been brilliant and behind me all the way and I know you will all give her the support and encouragement you have shown me.

It just leaves me with this final task to pass on the Lady Captain's Brooch (which I broke and is now mended) and formally announce you, Margaret, as Lady Captain of Oak Park Golf Club 2010.

6 INCOMING CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Mr Chairman, Ladies & Club Captain,

My first duty is a very pleasant one – to thank Lucy for being a wonderful and successful Lady Captain. You have been totally committed to ensuring that the Ladies Section has run smoothly and efficiently over the past year. I had not played on Tuesdays very often before this year, but I can certainly say that under your Captancy, I have seen the section flourish, everyone enjoying the day, whether out playing in the many well organised competitions - or in the recent bad weather, delighted by your decision to have coffee mornings instead! As your Vice –Captain you have involved me and 'shown me the ropes' and I would like to thank you for all the support and encouragement you have given me.

Your hard work, enthusiasm for the club, and your sense of fun has shone through and we hope very much that you have enjoyed the year as much as we have enjoyed you being our Lady Captain.

So I am delighted on behalf of the Ladies Section to present you with these gifts, which we hope will be a reminder of our thanks and appreciation of a happy year, and that you can enjoy when you are relaxing in all your spare time!

So here I am, Lady Captain of Oak Park Golf Club - words that when I joined the club 10 years ago, I never envisaged I would be saying! I am so very honoured to have been given the opportunity and I am excited, if not a little nervous, by the prospect of the coming year.

My love for the game of golf started many, many, years ago – my Dad is a very enthusiastic golfer and having two daughters that were happy to chip and practice with him in the back garden soon meant that we were having regular lessons on a Friday night with the Pro at his club. In those days, lessons were also on rules and etiquette and we had to achieve a certain standard before being 'allowed' on the course. I remember clearly my very first time on the first tee, - I stood there, happy, confident ...and proceeded to shank my ball in full view of the club house, into the flower beds! I looked beseechingly at my Pro Stan, hopeful to hear the wonderful words 'take that again', but all I got was 'You put it there, you play it from there'...and that was my introduction to Golf! I hope not to repeat on Tuesday of course!

As a 'working girl' my golf at Oak Park has been focused at weekends, and that part of the Ladies Section is and always will be very special to me. Luckily, and thanks to my very flexible and understanding employers, I am able to play in the week and my aim is to be here to see and play with you all as much as possible, weekday and weekend.

I feel very privileged to be working with Brian Matthews, our new Club Captain, who I know is going to do a great job and we both hope that everyone will enjoy the social events that have been planned for the year.

Our charity, I am delighted to announce is Treloars. Treloars is a place where young people with physical disabilities go to gain an education and develop their independence, confidence and the skills to take up positive and productive roles in society. The students have a range of disabilities but predominantly Cerebral Palsy, Muscular Dystrophy and Spina Bifida. Myself and Brian have visited the school and I can certainly confirm that despite their physical disadvantages the students maintain an optimism and humour - in fact on the day we visited they were showing their independence by fund raising themselves for the Haiti Appeal. I hope that many of you will come to Club Night on 9th April where Jon from Treloars will be giving more details of how we hope to help them. A very big thank you to you all for supporting tonight's raffle and a huge thank you to Wendy White for donating the beautiful flower arrangement.

And now to the years golfing calendar, a busy year as always! One major change that will be introduced this year is that our Ladies Championship will take place over 2 days, Saturday & Sunday, 3rd & 4th July. This was very much the preferred option when we canvassed opinion last year as to what format the Championship should take, so we hope that we will see increased numbers playing in this our most prestigious event.

Sadly the planned Exchange Day with East Berks in October has been cancelled – when the venue was announced the East Berks Ladies believe our course to be too much of a challenge – I take that as a great tribute to all of you that play here!

We will be participating in Hampshire County competitions – Knight Cup, Hull Shield, Centenary Foursomes and of course the Stoneham Cup. I am very pleased and would like to take this opportunity to thank Linda Warren for agreeing once again to be our Stoneham Organiser. The Handicap limit for playing in the Stoneham Cup has been reduced this year from 26 to 24 - this will of course impact on our team selection, but I am sure we can rise to the challenge and I am delighted to see that once again we are going to have wonderful support from our Caddies. Thank you to all of you Ladies who already have your names down as players and caddies, it really is a great experience.

I also hope that we will take part in the Hayling Trophy. This is a round robin match play tournament for Bronze division players, handicap limit is 25-36. I have made initial approaches and if we are successful in entering play will start in January 2011. I believe this would be an ideal opportunity for our Ladies to gain valuable match play experience and enjoy doing it.

We have the usual Friendly interclub matches, 8 Ladies matches with a new venue of Blacknest, and 7 Mixed, a new fixture for the Mixed with Windlesham Golf Club.

Our Mixed section is one that I would like to see back to the sort of numbers we had when I joined the Club. I know that our Midweek Mixed is very well supported and I hope that our weekend Mixed Competitions will be also. I am delighted that this year Graham Rose will be assisting in this area and I am sure his enthusiasm will ensure a good turn out!

And of course we will have our Medals, Stablefords and our fun competitions throughout the year on Tuesdays and Saturdays, Friday roll up with our Village Ladies, as well as our Knockout tournaments.

So to achieve all this and a well run, efficient Ladies Section, there are some very important people involved and it now gives me great pleasure to announce the committee for 2010. Could I ask you to stand Ladies as I introduce each of you.

Lady Vice Captain	Claire Weedon
Honorary Secretary	Pat Bergkvist
Handicap Secretary	Maggie Core

Re-elected Committee Members:-
Alison Lewis
Liz Seeney
Shona Gilchrist

And new to Committee:-
Judy Craig
Jean Deverill
Gilly Strachan

I am looking forward to working with you all and I know it is going to be a committee full of enthusiasm and ideas. I would particularly like to thank Claire for agreeing to be my Vice-Captain. I know she will do a fantastic job and I hope she enjoys her year as Vice-Captain as much as I have mine.

Finally, thank you Ladies for all the support you have shown me and I assure you I will do my very best for our section. I hope we have a great year:- I intend it to be a year full of good golf but most importantly, fun laughter and enjoyment!

I will now hand over to Richard to deliver the Crown Golf Report.

7 CROWN GOLF REPORT

Thank out going Committee and Captain for contributions to the Club Lucy Church Outgoing Captain.

Wish incoming Capt Committee well and their respective Vice Captains Margaret Church Ladies Captain.

Congratulations £21K for Club charity Disability Challenges, Club Members ongoing efforts and wish Brian and Margaret well with their Charity efforts.

In what is proving to be a tricky period in the Golf Industry Crown remain in a good position to flourish through what has been a challenging economic environment for the last 18 months.

2009 saw the opening of St Mellion International after its significant redevelopment and plans are already underway for hosting the English Open in 2011. "Well worth a visit "

Membership Levels current 870 + 97 Academy (869 in 2009) 139 Ladies (145 in 2009)

The Academy has been extremely well received at Oak Park we currently have 97 members (21 Girls), with the prospect of a good proportion of these becoming full Junior Members in the next 24 months. Thanks to Linda Warren John Pitt, Roy Pointer, Alyson Patterson and Roger White for their support.

Our richest source of New Full Members has been from the families of Academy Children providing 1 in 5 of the new joiners in the last 12 months. Management is conscious of the issues of large numbers of new youngsters can create and will continue to review our operating practices to ensure that all its Members have fair and enjoyable access to the facilities.

50% of Academy competitions have been moved to PM starts to improve access to Village course at key times and alleviate crunch points on the Driving Range.

Weekend morning restrictions for visitors has been removed as of Mid October 2009 this at present has had no impact on accessibility to desired tee times for Members. The situation will remain under review going forward

Projects and Improvements 2009/2010

New 3250 Greens Machine purchased (Greens & Tees Finer turf)

New Tees Units for 3250

Re defining of rough areas on Woodland and Village

Drainage lines on 4th fairway filled and turfed

All year playability remains good (although 3 weeks closed due to snow and wet winter)

The academy has achieved "Golf Mark status "(access to government funding aimed at golf development.

We have 6 juniors now participating in the County coaching programme.

New path way access to 11th Medal tee will help protect tee

Shoe cleaning area tidied up with Cattle Grid style collector

Fountain re in stated

Works in progress or scheduled

Village bunkers re modelling on 5th and 6th

Flags, holes tee markers for new season

Flood lighting application is being pursued

Ground floor Carpet to be replaced Banquet, Conservatory main bar, changing room and Golf Shop

Returfing of 9th Medal and 13th Yellow & Back of Reds

8 A.O.B.

Notified Questions.

Richard Pilbury was asked if there was any intention to run qualifying competitions on the Village Course. He replied that it was possible and the computer and its software was available and compatible for this. This would enable village members to keep their active handicaps.

He also said that village members with CONGU Handicaps could not play at weekends in qualifiers.

Questions from the floor.

Hilary King enquired again this year whether any improvements were planned for the ladies locker room, especially the adjustment of the showers.

Richard Pilbury replied that he was aware of the situation and hopefully in the future the matter would be dealt with.

Hilary thanked Craig for installing the 'Hearts of Oak' chair on the 3rd hole in time for the Captain's Drive In.

Hilary also drew Richard's attention to the fact that because members have to book 12 days ahead to play at weekends this could lead to more cancellations.

He answered that he was aware of this.

Helen Mills noted that the attitude of the Marshalls at times was not acceptable to the ladies

Sheila Desouza asked what impact has allowing visitors to book on weekend mornings had for the members. Richard Pilbury replied none at this stage but the situation would be continually monitored.

Gill Kent enquired about Master Cards for members of over 10 years. Richard said that Master Cards would be issued again this year.

Ruth Stublely noted that the telephone numbers at the back of the Members Diary were too small and difficult to read. Richard Pilbury replied that next year they would try and get it better.

Meeting closed at 21.00