

COUNTY AGM 2023 (DRAFT MINUTES)



AGM on Wednesday 8th November 2023 Monifieth Golf Club @ 7.00pm

Captain's Welcome

1. Welcome

Frances Millar welcomed everyone, and thanked everyone for coming. The business side of things took place first, following the agenda through, then after a short comfort break the presentation of prizes took place.

A minimum number paper copies were made available of the agenda, last year's draft AGM Minutes and the accounts in order to save paper and cost. The Draft Minutes for 2022 and the agenda are also available online.

2. Apologies

Lesley Haynes; Thelma McInroy; Sandra Barber; Jan Petrie; Claire Curnin; Deirdre Moffat; Sheila Bradley; Angela Scott; Susan Sneddon; Christine Orr; Pat Campbell; Catriona Blake; Mary Summers; Sarah Chapman; Marion McDonald; Freida Souter; Lindsay Dodd; Ann Ramsay (Jnr); Virginia Jamieson

3. Attendees of AGM 2023

Angela Evans, Downfield; Rebecca Evans, Ballumbie; Claire Anderson, Carnoustie Caledonia; Lynn Gray, Downfield; Alison Connelly, Panmure Barry; Dawn Hart, Panmure Barry; Jennifer McBride, Monifieth; Janice Craig, Grange & Broughty; Fiona Hay, Grange & Broughty; Pauline Stewart, Carnoustie; Jackie Brown, Monifieth; Claire Penman, Carnoustie Caledonia; Jane Grubb, Edzell; Julie Taylor, Edzell; Heather Strathdee, Carnoustie; Isabol Chapman, Forfar; Margaret Chalmers, Downfield; Jan Ord, Forfar; Lynn Richardson, Forfar; Anne Chree, LP Monifieth; Ann McMillan, LP Monifieth; Kathleen Sutherland, Panmure; Jane Grubb, Edzell; Alice Leiper, Carnoustie Caledonia; Ruby Logan, Grange & Broughty; Louise Graham, Carnoustie Ladies; Carol Littlewood, Montrose Caledonia; Annie Hainey, Carnoustie; Frances Millar, Carnoustie Caledonia; Ann Ramsay, Kirriemuir; Heather Strathdee, Carnoustie.

4. Minutes of the AGM 2022

The draft minutes have been available online and there are copies out in the room. No-one had any amendments.

Minutes proposed and seconded by Jane Grubb and Jackie Brown

5. Matters Arising from 2022 Minutes

There was a query was about a discrepancy on Page 8 in the Champion of Champions Dates- The Reps' Minutes states the third Sunday in September and AGM minutes state the last Sunday in September. It's not a problem for 2024 as we've booked for the 3rd Sunday and have spoken to clubs that could be affected and everything's fine however we just need to formalise it..... The captain's thoughts are that the third Sunday may give us better weather and it hasn't clashed with anyone's fixtures for next season, so it was proposed that the 3rd Sunday is finalised as the date for future years moving forward.

Proposed; Frances Millar

Seconded; Louise Graham

There were no other matters arising from the minutes.

6. Captain's Report FM

Please make yourself comfortable, I seem to have lots of notes!

The start of my captaincy began with last winter's under 12 handicap index sessions at Monifieth. Many thanks to Jackie for booking these sessions before the end of her captaincy.

In March, a session at Monifieth was organised for the squad with Kathryn Imrie, SG Performance Coach. This began with an extremely engaging Q and A session and discussion, followed with a selection of really useful putting drills and then some golf. Many thanks to Kathryn for very kindly donating this session to Angus Ladies.

Due to popular demand, we also managed to squeeze in a short game session with Kathryn in the middle of April. It was an excellent session, with players working on bunkers, 40-yard shots, lob shots and a 90-yard accuracy test.

The Scottish Golf Areas and Counties engagement meeting in Feb was attended by Secretary Annie and me. It was pleasing to hear that SG recognise that there is a gap in accessibility for girls getting into coaching and that they plan to address this. SG also noted the importance of specific women's and girls' programmes.

Changes to the operating structure within SG are also in the pipeline, with a single point of leadership required. There are also plans for coaching workshops with areas and counties together on a regional basis, rather than focusing area by area.

The old SG VMS also discussed at length during the meeting. It was struggling to keep up with the requirements, so SG made the decision to switch to dot golf which is now the current system in use. Handicap changes happened during the switchover to people who had not submitted 20 recent cards, resulting in some confusion! The message from SG was

simple- submit more scores for handicap accuracy! At the time of the meeting, SG had 175 clubs on the platform already, and 64 000 golfers. In the longer term, SG aim to attract money from commercial sponsors.

During the close season, Angela Evans, our junior Convenor, and I were kept busy, firstly working through our Safeguarding Training, followed up by Officer Training. It's important to say at this point that Angela is listed as our Lead Officer but if anyone has any safeguarding concerns, please feel free to get in touch with either of us.

Our ALCGA Invoices were sent out to affiliated clubs in the middle of January. Although some clubs needed chasing and some were late with their payments, almost all clubs paid by the start of the playing season and luckily, no one from the clubs who hadn't yet paid had entered any County competitions at that point, which saved any potentially embarrassing situations.

The season for the jamboree squad began at the beginning of April, with our annual match against Carnoustie Golf Club Men. We extended the format to 16 a side. Unfortunately, we lost 3.5 to 4.5 but it was very close, and great to field two juniors in our team. Our second jamboree squad fixture was the annual match against Panmure Barry Men. Against tough opposition, we lost unfortunately 1.5 to 3.5.

Our monthly County competitions kicked in in April as always. I don't want to say too much about them as that will be covered in the prizegiving, but it was pleasing to see some new faces taking part and some new winners in the prizes.

Jamboree June, Muckhart.

Our jamboree team consisted of Claire Penman, Jackie Brown, Marion McDonald, Sakuna Ramsay, Viki Hart, Lynn Gray, Jane Grubb, Sarah Tough, and a management team of myself, VC Ann Ramsay, President Isabol Chapman and Pat Campbell, selector. North won the jamboree in some style, fielding only 6 players, however with narrow margins as always, we finished fourth, just behind Aberdeenshire.

I want to say a huge thank you to Ann, Isabol and Pat for all of their encouragement, hard work and organisation and for giving up their time for the jamboree.

There was sad news from Monifieth in June, as Eileen Miller passed away suddenly. Although Eileen was not an active County member in recent years, I know that she is sadly missed by her golfing friends at Monifieth and beyond.

I'd like to pause for a moment for us to remember Eileen.

Moving on to our monthly competitions, as many of you will know we had huge software issues with May and June competitions- club V1/ SG/ Dotgolf. Part of this was due to the nomadic nature of County golf, where V1 now needs course approval each time we use a course, even if nothing has changed. Thanks to Jackie for trying her hardest to solve the issues, however, the issues were unmanageable and unworkable, with countless hours being spent trying to unravel where the problem actually lay.

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As a result of these difficulties, at the beginning of July I took part in some SG training for using Dotgolf, the VMS that's used behind the scenes at SG.

Our Kirriemuir meeting in July was our first usage of the SG VMS.
We were well supported remotely by Kevin Blyth of Scottish Golf and all (finally) was well.

It was the turn of Angus Ladies to host the North of Scotland Championship this season which we did at Arbroath. Preparation for the tournament began in April, meeting up with Arbroath rep Deidre Moffat to identify what needed done. It was great to see a number of Angus players supporting the competition and Arbroath Golf Club did us proud with their willingness to help out with the tournament, providing everything from starters, check in desk volunteers, flag wavers and ball spotters. A huge thank you to everyone involved in helping out from the County committee and Arbroath Golf Club and to Craig in the Pro Shop for his help. Thanks too, to Kevin Blyth of SG, who can along and helped us with the finer points of VMS on Day 1. It was extremely pleasing to receive positive comments through social media posts and letters to the County and club.

Although the scratch trophy was won by Ellie Docherty from Northern Counties and the handicap trophy was won by Karen McGuinness from Aberdeenshire, Angus had a very close call in the handicap competition with Wendy Edwards losing at the 18th.

We also had three juniors playing in the event, Sophie Wright, Heather Strathdee and Rebecca Evans. Next year's NOS will be held at Nairn Dunbar on 22nd- 24th of July 2024.

Aileen Hunter, as always supports Angus Ladies behind the scenes. Her input this season, particularly with NOS planning and electronic entries was invaluable as always.
Aileen is always there to bail us/ me out when things get tricky with the website or when updates are needed, so thank you, Aileen.

There's something which won't feature in the prizegiving, but which is important to mention.

Very well done to Pam Wilson and June Livie, who represented the county in the Commonwealth Spoons at Kings Acre and finished as runners up, being just pipped at the post.

Texas Scramble Fundraiser at Kirriemuir

An amazing total amount was taken in, far exceeding expectations.

We are extremely grateful to Kirriemuir for hosting, and I'd like to say a few thank yous, firstly to all of the Ramsay clan, who worked away behind the scenes to make things a success, thanks also to all the reps, who badgered people for either money to buy a raffle prize or who donated or arranged raffle prizes themselves. Grange and Broughty Rep Fiona Hay's suggestion of giving out raffle books to each club certainly increased our raffle ticket sales! Thanks too to everyone who helped out on the day and all those who supported the cause by bringing along a team and to the clubs who generously donated the four balls which were either raffled or put up for silent auction. You'll perhaps be pleased to know that we don't feel it's necessary to do this every year so don't plan to hound you next season!

A couple of other counties have been in touch recently to glean more information about our model of automatic membership without full amalgamation. A bit of time has been spent behind the scenes with that and it looks as if others may follow our lead.

Our Winter Sessions for 2024 are now taking shape. Based on last year's jamboree feedback, we are planning to use January and February for Foursomes practice, and in March a trip to Newmachar is planned as this is where next season's jamboree will be played. Following our game there, a session on course mapping and management has been arranged with Head Pro Lee Vannet.

I'm going to finish off the captain's report by saying a huge thank you to everyone on the committee, and to all our county reps, particularly those that have had a meeting to host this year or who have helped cover a club without a rep.

Speaking of committee, it has been a pleasure and privilege to have undertaken the role of captain this year. Although I am prepared to stand again for the 2024 season and complete my two years, it's vitally important that we find someone else who is prepared to take over captaincy in 2025 so that we have continuity. Taking on vice captaincy now would allow someone a year to learn what's involved.

This needn't be someone who has played in the jamboree team, nor does it need to be a low handicapper; we have had many excellent captains over the years like this and we are very much hoping that we will have a nomination from the floor when we come to election of office bearers. At the moment the county feels like we are building for future success, with some very promising juniors coming through the ranks. We seem to be on an upward curve and in a fairly strong position as an organisation for whoever would like to take over. I won't be available in 2025 for committee nor will I be around that much due to travel plans so it's crucial for the county to get someone in place NOW.

Although we're just about to look at our accounts, I have one final thank you. I'd like to give a huge vote of thanks to Angela Campbell for giving up her time behind the scenes, checking over the accounts, asking the right questions and preparing everything for the AGM.

Unfortunately, Sheila, our treasurer, is unavailable this evening, so I'd like to hand you over to Ann to take us through the accounts.

7. Treasurer's Report AR

We started this year with £9,542.24 in the bank and finished with £14,512.93, therefore it has been a very profitable year for us.

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Ann Ramsay ran a very successful Texas Scramble Fundraiser in September to raise funds for the Jamboree Fund. 22 teams took part. Once all the prizes have been cashed, there will be a profit remaining of about £1,700. This will be an excellent boost for the 2024 Jamboree at Newmacher.

We hosted the North Of Scotland Championship this year at Arbroath. We received payments of £2,960 from last year's host, Aberdeenshire. After all the prizes have been processed, we will need to pass back just over £2,000 to Northern Division who are hosting the 2024 event at Nairn.

Once again we received a training grant of £1,500 from Scottish Golf. So far £300 has been spent on the juniors with Karyn Dallas and £150 went to Kathryn Imrie for the low handicap players.

Affiliation fees increased this year from £2,240 in 2022 to £2,362 in 2023. This seems a more accurate picture of lady golfers in Angus as all the clubs returned their forms this year.

There has been an increase in numbers playing in the monthly meetings, despite the increase in the fee from £5 to £10 per person per event. Hopefully we will be able to keep on encouraging ladies to play in these events. Thanks to practically all the ladies who managed to indicate which competition they had entered when they paid their fees. This made life so much simpler. The income from the monthly meetings rose from £1,124 in 2022 to £2,500 in 2023. Here is the breakdown of numbers.

	2022	2023
April - Commonwealth Spoons at Ashludie	26 pairs	39 pairs
May - Championship at Panmure Barry	39	49
June – Buddon, Carnoustie	22	29
July – Kirriemuir	30	26
August – Brechin	20 but cancelled	25
September – Greensomes at Downfield	11 pairs	16 pairs

Angela Evans did sterling work with the juniors this year. £288 was generated from their meetings. £300 has already been paid to Karyn Dallas for training sessions over the summer with more sessions to come.

Special thanks to Ann Ramsay for her help throughout the year and to Angela Campbell for her support in finalising and auditing the accounts.

8. Junior's Report AE

The County girls have had a busy season.

We started with the Spring Meeting on 23 April at Carnoustie. 19 girls competed over 18/9/6 holes depending on ability. Eden Vanderesch won the 18 hole competition.

The Summer Meeting was at Forfar in July. The weather was miserable. 5 girls took part, 2 playing 18 and three managed 5 holes before calling it a day. Sophie Wright narrowly won the 18 hole competition.

The Autumn Meeting was in September at Downfield. There seemed to be a lot on in September and only 3 girls took part. with Heather Strathdee winning that competition.

During the season we had 2 coaching sessions with Karyn Dallas at Forfar. 20 girls attended the first session and 11 attended the second session. All abilities took part and I hope the girls felt they benefited from these sessions.

In 2023, there was a county wide summer league established. An 18 hole competition consisting of 12 teams. County Girls were invited to take part and 9 clubs across the county also fielded teams. Players could only play for 1 team during the entire season - no jumping between clubs if a member of more than one and either play for club or county. We fielded 7 girls, with 4 girls representing the county at each event.

I am delighted to advise that county girls played extremely well - as a team, we won 3 of the 9 events - with girls also picking up individual prizes throughout the league events. We finished 3rd overall which I think was fantastic. It was a great opportunity to play courses across the county and meet other juniors.

We had a very busy season and I look forward to building on this in 2024!

9. Club Reps 2024 AH

Arbroath	Deirdre Moffat
Ballumbie	Susan May
Carnoustie	Pauline Stewart
Carnoustie Caledonia	Claire Anderson
Carnoustie Ladies	Louise Graham
Downfield	Lynn Gray

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Edzell	Julie Taylor
Forfar	Jan Ord
Grange & Broughty	Ruby Logan
Kirriemuir	Ann B. Ramsay
Ladies Panmure Barry	Laura Rosbottom – No rep as yet
Ladies Panmure Monifieth	Ann McMillan
Monifieth	Lorraine McNicoll
Montrose Caledonia	Carol Littlewood
Royal Montrose Mercantile	Edna Wallwork

Unattached:

Brechin
Caird Park
Kingennie
Piperdam

10. Fixture List for 2024

11. AOCB

Office Bearers- apart the President's position, which is an annually elected post, all of the other positions were elected last AGM for a two-year period as per the constitution. However, as I said earlier, we must find someone to join committee as Vice-Captain as Ann will be stepping down from Vice Captain to assist Sheila with the Treasurer's role.

President- Frances proposed Isabol Chapman as President for 2024. Kathleen Sutherland seconded this.

Vice-Captain- There have been no nominations for Vice-Captain to date.

Scottish AGM -_sometime in March, tbc.

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Changes to SG Competitions - shared press release, now frozen for consultation, feedback to be given to SG, interested to hear points of view from the floor.

Senior Women's Open – 54-hole event, no cut, no Matchplay. FM thinks last point most relevant. FH agrees. It is noted that there is now only one event instead of two.

There were no issues with accommodation previously. JB agreed no Matchplay unacceptable.

Seniors and Scottish Amateur carry OOM points so this will affect selection. LG thinks there will be fewer Scottish players if they are trying to encourage internationals.

This was originally a 36-hole Strokeplay event.

RE asked re Junior events. Only Scottish Boys and Girls run as one event for under 14s. This year there were 112 boys and 44 girls.

Competitions Fees 2024 - new pricing from last year working well, no increases necessary, prize money has been doubled for this season, everything will remain the same next season.

Champion of Champions date - we picked this up under matters arising from last year's minutes, but just to confirm that the date will be third Sunday in September, and this can now be added to the fixture list.

Order of Merit (OOM) - this has been updated this year and is found on the website under 'downloads'.

Winter Coaching - January and February dates have been shared via the website and FB. Please email me if you would like to take part. The focus for these sessions will be foursomes and the main aim is to give potential jamboree players the opportunity to play with a variety of partners.

Banner - committee and reps think it's a good idea to raise awareness of the County by purchasing a banner which we would take to competitions and anchor at the first tee.

Over the winter I'll be pricing various options and aim to have something in place for the beginning of next season.

Jamboree (Newmachar 7th- 10th of June 2024) - Accommodation for ten is booked in the Newmachar Hotel, so we may still need one or two additional beds somewhere, depending on who attends from the managerial point of view.

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In 2025, it's the turn of Angus to host the jamboree. Edzell has very kindly agreed to let us use the course there so dates are in their diary. Dates are 6th-9th of June 2025.

Trophies - Ann Ramsay spoke of the need for two trophies to be re-silvered. It was suggested from the floor that rather than do one this year and one next year, both should be done this year, and this was agreed. Ann also spoke about how to care for the silver and the zinc trophies. Some blue bags missing along with the base for Champions trophy. It was suggested looking back at previous prizegiving photos to try to locate last time used.

No other AOCB from the floor.

Thanks very much everyone. We'll close the meeting now at 8:30pm and take a ten-minute comfort break and then proceed with the Presentation of Prizes.