ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the
NORFOLK VETERAN LADIES' GOLF SOCIETY
held at Wensum Valley Golf Club
Monday, 24th February 2025

Present	President	Sue Hill
	Chair Person	Angie Allsopp
	Honorary Secretary	Felicity Leigh
	Honorary Treasurer	Sue Fage
	Competition Secretary	Jill Bullimore

77 members attending for the meal and 2 for the AGM itself

President Sue Hill presided over the meeting and welcomed all to Wensum Valley for the 2025 AGM.

1. **Apologies** received from Liz Vaughan, Christine Joy, Cindy Tufts, Pat Howard, Helen Ayres, Julia Richardson, Vicki Smith, Sue Benning, Carolyn Child, Chris Edgar, Moira Morgan, Wendy Puttock, Liz Robinson, Jenny Rowe, Jane Watson, Linda Kay, Truda Foster, Ros Foster, Christine Pallister, Sue Meadows, Maureen LeLievre, Rachel Leigh, Jane Batey, Laura Ginesi, Lesley Buchan, Jane Bizley, Jean Seppings, Annie Baker, Sue Saunders.

   If there are any further apologies please could you advise by signing names on the appropriate sheet on the arrivals table.

   Sue informed the meeting that Susan Walker a vets' member from Middleton Hall Golf Club had sadly passed away recently. She asked those present to stand for a minutes silence to remember Susan and also others within the county golfing fraternity who had died since our last AGM.

   At this point Sue welcomed our new members to this friendly society, 26 joining in 2024 and 38 so far in 2025. More about this in the Membership Secretery's Report.

2. **Approval of Previous Minutes**

   The Minutes of the AGM held on 26th February 2024 having already been circulated, they now need to be approved. As they are rather lengthy Sue proposed that they should be taken as read. If anyone present at that meeting had any comments to make this was now their opportunity. No comments being made, Sue asked for a proposer and seconder and a show of hands to adopt the minutes as a true record. Proposed by Ann Ewer and seconded by Christine Green. A unanimous vote to adopt the minutes.

3. **Matters Arising** – there were no matters arising.

Sue invited the various officers to give their respective reports.

4. **Hon. Secretary's Report**

Good morning ladies, not too much for me to report on for this last year. Everything ticking along quite nicely.

Having said that, we would like to apologise that the website hasn't been performing at its best for the latter part of the year. Unfortunately the person who set the website up for us, and who was on call to Helen if she had any problems, decided to withdraw his labour without fixing the issues Helen had. Helen reports that everything seems to be back to normal, more by luck than design, with information being loaded up as and when so fingers crossed this situation continues. However we are in the process of looking into an alternative to helping Helen in the day to day running of the website.

Unfortunately our insurance company declined to offer new insurance as it was not within their brief. Despite getting in touch with companies they recommended we hit a blank wall at all turns. Each individual golfer is covered under the EBU insurance. Insuring the trophies only a minimum value was required and we did not hit that target either. It also got complicated when the trophies were not held in one particular place. The committee made the decision that recipients would be reponsible for trophies whilst in their care and in most cases this would be covered under their own contents insurance.

All the entry forms for the competitions will be uploaded within the next couple of days. The first fixture is the 4BBB at Gorleston on 14th April. Do please adhere to the entry open dates.

As an aside, our first committee meeting will be held on 21st March and giving me enough time to type the minutes up and have them approved, they should appear on the website in draft shortly thereafter.

Sue thanked Felicity for her report.

5. **Membership Secretary's Report**

With Annie the membership secretary being away on holiday, the incoming membership secretary, Sue Ryan, agreed to read out Annie's report.

The Society continues to have a solid membership of 400 members of which 10 are non-playing, from 25 different golf clubs across Norfolk. 63 ladies did not renew their membership at the end of the year. Reasons given for leaving were ladies were no longer playing golf; age and health problems; competitions clashing with other events; and family commitments. We had the sad loss of Susan Walker from Middleton Hall who lost her fight with cancer - she will be greatly missed.

A warm welcome to the 11 ladies from Mattishall who have joined the Society this year. Just one lady transferred to non-playing and 6 ladies transferred between Clubs. 26 Ladies joined the Society in 2024 as they became eligible and a further 38 have joined for 2025. 3 Ladies left during 2024 as they moved counties. Overall, we have 1 more member than at this point in 2024.

Thank you to all the Club Representatives who do a great job throughout the year promoting events and promoting the Society. 4 Reps will retire this year after several years representing their clubs. June Meadows from Barnham Broom (after 25 years), Sheila Glenn from Bawburgh (after 25 years), Annie Langstaff from Dereham Golf Club and Julia Richardson from Dunston Hall. The Committee thank you for all your hard work. You do such an important job and we couldn't do our job without you. Good luck to all the new Reps. Sue Brothers at Barnham Broom, Ross Foster at Bawburgh, Maxine Hadden-Philo at Dereham and Loyola Weeks at Dunston Hall. If you are unsure of anything the Committee is here to help you. Just a note that in the future the online application form will be removed from the website at the end of October until after the AGM. Anyone wishing to join the Society between these times will be able to join via their Club Representative. This will help with reconciling the membership for the beginning of the year. Once the AGM has taken place the online form will be active so that any eligible ladies wishing to join throughout the year will be able to do so.

Apologies that I am not at the AGM in person today but I look forward to seeing you all at some point in 2025 on the course! A very warm welcome to Sue Ryan who has kindly agreed to take over from me as Membership Secretary. I wish her well in her new role and I know she will do a great job. Happy Golfing. Annie.

*If I can just add and say thank you to Annie in her absence for my warm welcome. She has done an excellent job over the past 3 years, she has handed over very accurate and well kept records and has been very helpful in showing me what to do. So thanks again Annie. Over the next few days, I will email the club reps so that you a*ll have my contact details. *I am looking forward to my role. Thank you.*

Sue thanked Annie in absentia for her report and Sue Ryan in reading it out to the membership.

6. **Hon. Treasurer's Report**

Good morning, everyone, lovely to see so many members and representatives here. This is my last Treasurer's Report for the Vets.

There are copies of the signed accounts on each table, and I will take any questions at the end. This report covers the year's financial activity up to and including 31st October 2024.

We have had a busy year as far as the finances are concerned. Firstly, we moved away from Barclays Bank, due to the lack of response to any changes. As a society we have changes every 2 years and we need a bank that will respond and action our requests. It also became increasingly difficult to visit a branch, and paying in cheques was a nightmare. We moved to NatWest, our account is all online, setting everyone up was not easy, but we got there in the end. We have jumped into the 21st century!! We can pay cheques in through the App and view the account at any time, pay by debit card and BACS. *It's so easy.*

Secondly, we closed our NS&I account and transferred the balance into the NatWest account. All our funds are now together in one account, which also simplifies things.

Subscriptions and Raffle

The annual membership income for the year was £2078. We have held our membership fees for 2025.

We had 5 raffles during the year which were really well supported, and a cheque for £1,407.70 was sent to the Norfolk & Norwich Hospitals Charity, for the Jenny Lind Appeal. This is the largest sum raised since I have been in this role, so thank you everyone for your generosity and a big thank you to Jill, Angie and Sue for running the raffles last year.

Can we have a show of hands if you are happy to support the Jenny Lind Appeal again in 2025. All agreed with this way forward.

Events

All events were well supported, with income received £15,269.20, which is an increase on the previous year, which was £13,703.50. Likewise green fees and food have increased, leaving a small excess of £457.77 after prizes and expenses.

We have to guesstimate entry fees at the start of the year, with some events making a surplus and some making a loss.

Matches

The cost of entertaining Cambs & Hunts and Lincolnshire 2nds was £915.00.

Expenses

All expenses were in line with expectations, the only cost that has changed is Insurance, as Felicity has already explained.

Net Income

The result for the year is a surplus of £946.83.

Bank Account Balance

The current account balance stood at £4,369.50 as at 31st October 2024, which includes the old NS&I balance.

Accounts Verification

The books have been verified and signed off by Mr P Sturman on 10/12/2024.

In Summary

I am pleased to report that the society's finances are in a healthy position as I hand over to the new Treasurer.

I have been in this role for 6 years, and have really enjoyed working with the lovely ladies on the committee.

I wish the new Treasurer well, and will be there to be called on if necessary.

That concludes my report for 2024 are there any questions?

No questions raised. Sue asked for a show of hands if everyone was in agreement with the accounts as presented. All in agreement.

I propose we ask Mr P Sturman to examine this year's accounts for 2025. Again, can I ask the floor for approval please? Appoval duly given by the membership.

Sue thanked Sue for her report and for all her efforts over the years in keeping the society on track financially.

7. **Competition Secretary's Report**

Once again 2024 saw the Society hold four successful competitions. Beginning in April we held a 4BBB at Sprowston Manor, it was a squally day and we experienced all four seasons in one day. A large field of 108 members took part, the winners being Debbie Spooner and Lynn Wykes from Wensum Valley with 42 points, they were out early and waited very patiently for the result and presentation.

In May, we tried to hold an event for higher handicapped players, a 9 hole Stableford at Ryston Park, as our competitions to date have a maximum handicap of 36. Unfortunately this was not a popular option and only a handful of members wanted to play so it was with regret that we had to cancel. Taking comments from members into consideration we are going to try another event in 2025. This year we will be holding an 18 hole team game for members, handicaps 28 - 54 at Dereham, this will be a waltz in teams of four thus giving a format with less pressure and hopefully a great deal of fun.

In June we held our blue ribbon event, the Championship at Eaton, again entry was very disappointing with only 30 members all told entering. Unfortunately on the Championship Day the field was further depleted through illness and other reasons. It meant that in Division 1, a Medal, there were only 7 players and 19 in the Division 2 Stableford.The winners were Division 1 Scratch, was Sue Clarke from Kings Lynn who retained the title with the fabulous score of 75 Gross, very well done and the Division 2 Stableford was won by Gerri Williams of Bawburgh who won with 38 points. As a committee we have discussed how we go forward as we are keen to keep this as our most prestigious event, so for this year 2025 we are moving this event to the end of the season to hopefully not have to compete with Opens, AMAM's and Club dates. We intend keeping the format of Division 1 Medal and Division 2 Stableford but play this on October 1st at Dunston Hall. Please note when thinking of entering that players can decide if they wish this to be a qualifying score or not, hopefully this change of date will encourage more members to take part.

Thanks to Sue Saunders for the following report re the AMAM, which is the Match Captain's responsibility in organising.

The AMAM was played at Thetford Golf Club on the 19th September and 104 ladies had perfect conditions for playing golf with afternoon sunshine and a gentle breeze. Once again this event was oversubscribed and apologies to those who did not get in as sadly, we could only accommodate 26 teams with a two tee start. Everyone seemed to have a good day out and there was a pleasant atmosphere in the clubhouse. Prizes were presented up to 5th place, plus some nearest the pins, and this year first place and winners of the Judith Mackinnon Salver were Jane Wheeler, Sue Hill, Diana Piccolo and Alison Mackway from Dunston Hall. The Society is very grateful to everyone who generously bought raffle tickets which raised £380 for the Norfolk and Norwich Charity.

Then finally in October we held the final competition, the Autumn Greensomes at Bawburgh. This event was well supported with 88 members taking part. The winners were Penny Lamb and Anne Osborn from Bawburgh with 41 points. Many thanks to Angie Allsopp for deputising for me. Next year as we have decided to move the Championship we will be moving the Greensomes to July at Caldecott Hall so hopefully it will continue to be

well supported. The booklet for this year is available for the coming season and I would like to encourage you to support these events. It is a chance to play different formats at different courses. I would like to thank all the clubs that have and are going to host us. We do try very hard to try and keep costs down as much as we can to give you a good day out so I look forward to seeing many of you competing at our events.

For those clubs who don't have too many vets as members and may struggle to find a partner at their club, please do still put your entry form in and I will do my best to partner you with someone. Don't feel left out.

Thank you.

Sue thanked Jill for her very comprehensive report.

8. **Match Captain's Report**

In Sue Saunders' absence on holiday, Felicity was asked if she would read Sue's report.

I took over from Chrissie Owens this time last year and it soon became obvious that Bedfordshire no longer wanted a fixture with us. I believe their senior team also pulled out of all matches in 2024.

The first match of the season against Cambs & Hunts was meant to take place on the 3rd May at Kings Lynn but it was cancelled due to rain. Had I known what the weather was going to be like for the rest of the season I probably would have gone ahead. However, it eventually took place on the 4th October. It was a great match played in excellent spirits and the hospitality provided was first class. Norfolk won 3 - 1. NVLGS colours were presented to Sally Bettinson (Kings Lynn) Bev Fowler (Mundesley) Kath Malvern (Thetford) and Anne Sibley (Wensum Valley)

We had a brand new fixture this year arranged with Lincolnshire who were looking to hold a handicap match. It was slightly tricky deciding who deserved to be chosen as there are so many possibilities out there. However, Lincolnshire sent their team and handicaps ahead of time which meant I could select within a handicap range. Played at Heacham Manor on the 1st July, each team fielded 12 players, and the format was four ball better ball. Obviously, most of our players were new to the team and several members were unsure of what to wear amid much hilarity. This match was enjoyed enormously by everyone and was considered a resounding success. Result 3 - 3 draw.

Our only away match this season was played at Sleaford in August against a very strong Lincolnshire Seniors squad. Again, six games of four ball better ball were played in fine weather. The scoring was very good, and every match was toughly fought. Another very friendly 3 - 3 draw. Our match against Suffolk Seniors was held at Thetford at the end of September. These games are always played in a fun and friendly manner, and this was no exception. The course was in good condition with fast greens, and we fielded an excellent team of low handicap golfers but unfortunately Suffolk proved too strong and won the match 3 – 1.

I would like to say how privileged I was to skipper such a talented squad and to have the opportunity to make new friends from other counties.

Sue Hill thanked Sue Saunders in absentia for her report and wished her well with her matches in the coming year. Thanks to Felicity for delivering the report.

9. **Election of Officers and Committee for 2025/26**

Thank you to Lynn Wykes, Sue Ryan and Susan Olds who have put their names forward for the positions of Treasurer, Membership Seretary and Committee Member respectively.

The nominated officers and committee members are as shown on the agenda with their term of office (and remaining term) shown alongside.

President – Sue Hill
Chair Person – Angie Allsopp
Hon. Secretary – Felicity Leigh
Hon. Membership Secretary – Sue Ryan
Hon. Treasurer – Lynn Wykes
Competition Secretary – Jill Bullimore
Match Captain – Sue Saunders
General Committee Member – Sue Olds

Sue Hill asked if everyone was in agreement could she have a show of hands to elect officers and committee en bloc. All duly elected.

10. **Retiring Club Representatives**

After 25 years both June Meadows from Barnham Broom and Sheila Glenn (having represented Costessey Park and Bawburgh) are retiring, along with Annie Langstaff from Dereham Golf Club and Julia Richardson from Dunston Hall. Angie as Chair Person presented each of these ladies with spring planters of primroses as a way of thank you. Spring is just around the corner ladies!

At this juncture Angie also presented Liz Dann with a planter by way of thanks to her from the committee in doing all the work behind the scenes in organising the lunch we were going to enjoy today.

11. **Proposal (from the Committee)**

By way of a thank you for their contribution over many years, the Committee would like to award Honorary Membership to those current retiring Vets' Representatives and in the future who have served 25 years plus as their Club's Representative.

Sue asked for a show of hands to approve this proposal. There being no objections or absentions the proposal was voted through.

12. **Trophy Presentations**

The Society had 10 trophies to be presented to various winners, but unfortunately it came to light prior to the meeting that the 2 winners of the Smith Coasters, one of the winners of four of the Judith MacKinnon Salver and one of the winners of two of the Autumn Bowls would be present at the meeting to receive their trophies. Not the most satisfactory of

situations. Sue informed those present that this would be an item for discussion at the next regular committee meeting.

Those trophy winners present were then called upon to come and receive their trophies.

13. **Close of Meeting**

There being no other business Sue in her role as President thanked all for attending and being part of the society. Thanking Angie for running a very nice raffle of spring planters and raising £200 for the charity. For any member who was interested, the first ever book of minutes from the Society's inception in November 1960 together with a record of the trophy winners over the years is on show on the arrivals table.

The meeting was declared closed at 12.15pm.

Signed …….

Dated ……...