



HARWOOD GOLF CLUB WOMEN'S SECTION

Minutes of the Women's Committee Meeting held on 6th July 2026

Present:

Captain	Gillian Crofts
President	Dawn Eastland
Captain Elect	Carol Brooking
President Elect	Lorna Hart
IP Captain	Kate Knox
Treasurer	Anne Oakes

Janet Ayres, Elaine Henderson

The meeting started at 7.00 p.m.

		Action
1. Welcome	Captain welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2. Apologies	Lesley Hardman, Helen Radcliffe, Kathy Hardman	
3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting	Proposed as a correct record by Lorna and seconded by CB.	
4. Matters Arising:		
(a) Skyline Feature update	GC had not had an opportunity to progress this. She requested that the item is dropped from the Agenda for now, and she will refer back to Committee once there is something to report/discuss.	
(b) Catering Update	GC had held constructive discussions with Sue Manning (Bar & Catering). It was agreed that once team fixtures for 2027 were known Team Captains would communicate these to Lyn who would diary them and provide catering required.	
(c) Updating locker room posters	Prior to the meeting, HR had requested she is removed from the action on this point due to pressure of work. JA enquired what posters needed updating. These are notably policy and procedural notices. CB advised the Risk Assessment Certificate is out of date and agreed to contact Dave Barrington about this.	CB
(d) Improving our course	GC advised that the suggestion of soil/seed bags to repair divots had not been taken up. There were soil/seed bins on some tee beds for use when a divot is taken. There was no plan as yet to tackle the Himalayan Balsom. No action had been taken on extending the hazard tape on wooden surfaces either. GC to refer this back again to Management	GC
(e) Exchange Opportunity	CB had forwarded suitable dates to her contact at Silverdale. No response had been received yet. Dates were being put to Silverdale's Ladies' Committee.	CB
(f) Competition complaint progress	The individuals involved in the incident had been spoken to. No further action planned.	
(g) Reporting Developing Women's Golf to Management Committee	GC commented that now the WIG Ambassador (CB) has a seat on the Club Management team and we have a Women's representative on the SMT, reporting on the development of women's golf would become a regular Agenda item.	
(h) New equipment for young golfers	It was agreed that no action was currently required on this. There are plenty of equipment resources within the club available to any girls, or women, who required them.	

(i) Women's Section Integration	After the extraordinary meeting, held on 17 th June, Kate Knox has offered to be the Women's representative on the SMT. EH felt that this opportunity should have been open to the wider women's section, rather than just to committee members. GC explained Kate would sit on the SMT until the Club AGM in February, at which time the position would be open to any member of the Women's section who felt they had the right skills. JA commented that the intervening months gave us (the committee) the opportunity to consider which women might be suitable for the role and potentially canvas them to put their names up for election.	
(j) England Golf Women's Charter	GC confirmed that we had confirmed to EG our intention to continue as signatories to the WIG Charter. Carol Brooking has been appointed as the Charter Champion/Ambassador with Kathy Hardman and Anne Oakes helping to draw up the club's Charter commitments.	CB/KH/AO
(k) Committee List & Newsletter	The Committee list has been produced and displayed in the locker room. Lesley's draft newsletter had been circulated and all agreed it's format and content would be helpful in keeping the women's section up to date with a brief outline of what the committee is working on and how teams are doing. JA commented that as the Secretary's job is already very onerous it would be unrealistic to expect Lesley to produce this on her own. EH offered to assist with both serious and more light-hearted content and work with Lesley to produce a newsletter 2 or 3 times a year.	Lesley/EH
(l) May Open Feedback	GC had reported back to the Club Management team the positive comments received and the excellent condition of the course for our open event	
(m) Security footage question	No further action is planned by Management on this matter.	
(n) Refund from Davyhulme & Captain's Charity	No-one had requested a refund so the value of the refund received from Davyhulme would be put towards Captain's charity.	
(o) New Membership Process	GC has requested that the contact details of any new female members are forwarded to both the Women's Secretary and Captain of the WS so that we can contact them, and offer our usual welcome and induction process	
(p) Memento trophies for major (board & officials) competitions	CB had acquired a sample glass memento, with an estimated cost of £6 to include engraving. EH was concerned that asking winners to buy their own memento seemed very mean, especially when our general funds are very healthy. JA felt it should be possible to put aside say £100 at the start of each season to fund a memento for the most prestigious of our prizes. AO agreed to do an analysis of which prizes might qualify so that an accurate costing could be calculated.	AO
5. Treasurer's Report	The opening bank balance for June was £8,615.40 with the cash in hand amounting to £1,470.62 making the total monies £10,086.02. The income for May was £783 for Entry fees for Bolton Championships, Donations, Captain's Fizz in the Park and payments for Captain's Invitation Day.	

	The expenditure for June totalled £5,513.95 for Prizes for the Away Day, Raffle Tickets, Entry fees for the Bolton Championships and payment of the balance for the Picnic at Oulton Hall. Total assets amounted to £5,355.07 with the Net Assets amounting to £3,680.07 after taking into account the ringfenced money for Canopy Hire, income from the Children's Christmas party, May Open Raffle, Payments for Captain's Invitation Day, Refund from Davyhulme GC and Captain's Fizz in the Park. GC thanked AO for her hard work in maintaining the women's accounts and ensuring credits and debits were all reconciled and balanced	
6. Competition Secretary's Report	Bolton Towns Championship Bolton Championships proved to be very successful for Harwood GC. Jenny Murphy, Amelia Taylor and Louisa Sterling all qualified for the Preston Scratch Trophy. Amelia lost in the quarter finals with Jenny losing in the semis. Louisa marched into the final and triumphed in extreme heat. Harwood GC again have the Bolton Champion. Toni Sweeney, Pat Docherty and Marie Meakin won the Texas scramble with Harwood also taking second place with Kathryn Nuttall, Alison Wild and Diane Leigh. Captain WS Centenary Pairs Competition 4BBB A committee decision was made to postpone this event due to extreme heat. This will now be played on 22 and 28 August. Other Updates: • Harwood Women placed 5th in the Handicap Shield played at Dunscar GC. • Captain Gillian and immediate past captain Kate qualified for the Scott Leggatt finals. Alison Wild and Kathryn Nuttall also represented Harwood but unfortunately will not progress. • Lorraine Chamberlin played in Race to Woodhall Spa at Hazel Grove. Coming 2nd overall on the day, Lorraine received the great news that she has qualified for the finals. • Amelia Taylor and Eileen Beeney unfortunately do not progress in the Daily Mail Foursomes. • Karen Dowling played in the Bunty Booth but unfortunately it was not Karen's day, and she will not be progressing further. • Anne Oakes who won the Elsie Corlett Salver at Rossendale. • The Bell Cup team have their next match on Saturday 11 July at home vs Stockport. • Unfortunately, the 125-team lost after a hard-fought match against Greenmount. • Daily Mail Foursomes teams are now being confirmed. Instead of putting posters up which means players have to go up to the club to sign, we	

	are trialling a different approach. Teams confirm back to comp sec via email or WhatsApp that they want to enter. This is a more efficient way and saves time (and paper). Team updates will be provided at the next presentation evening.	
7. Developing Women's Golf	We have now finished a 6-week block of Girls' Golf. Canon Slade have had 6x60 min sessions after school. Our two link Primary schools 3x45min sessions during Monday afternoons. In total 22 Girls have taken part. All took part in our Centenary celebrations by competing in skills tests (chipping and driving) set by Dale. All Girls received a commemorative badge and the two winners a small trophy. Dale has invited all to his Golf Academy. Some of the older Girls have shown exceptional promise. Already one of our Primary Girls has taken up the offer. Today (Monday) we have welcomed 3 new schools. Sharples Secondary School, Smithills Secondary school and the Thomason Memorial Deaf school. This proved to be an inspiring and humbling experience for all those who were in attendance. Next Monday we will welcome Canon Slade and the Lever Park special school. All the Girls are older with SEN. Both Harriet and Lottie took part in the Junior Centenary competition last Sunday. Both had success. Harriet won and Lottie was third. It is hoped that once school has finished for the Summer both will play in our Wednesday Competitions. Lottie has won the overall Lancashire Girls' championship plus the U14s at Ormskirk on 5th July and has now been invited to represent Lancashire at a 3 day Jamboree at Scarcroft GC in early August. Harriet has a handicap of 36.3 Lottie 35.7 at present. Our Taster Group of 5 women continues on Tuesday evenings, weather permitting. All are really keen and making good progress. CB also reported her concerns about offering golfing opportunities to girls from more disadvantaged backgrounds. It was agreed funding should be sought wherever possible; initially from the Club (linked to its CASC status), but also from England Golf and Lancashire Golf. EG's initiatives around getting more women and girls involved must have funding attached to assist. Enquiries would also be made by EH and GC to local cricket clubs to enquire how they resource youngsters who might need help. Help will also be needed from our ladies for on course practice. Anyone helping would have to be CRB checked. JA commented that with all this activity around Driving Girls' Golf, would it be sensible to separate off the Women's Taster Programme to be run by someone else as CB would be so busy with her captaincy in 2027.	CB/EH/GC
8. Report from Management	The Gender & Fairness policy document has been approved. The appropriate Honours Boards are to be returned to the engraver for correction. The Centenary Halfway House is being installed adjacent to the 9th green. A log cabin has been purchased by Captain Elect.	
9. TUAL	Questions have been raised about our reserved TUAL slot. GC to ask HR to email our membership and ask them to sign up for TUAL before Monday. If slots are not taken up, they will be released back to Dale.	GC/HR
10. Entry requirements for Women's Championship	The Women's Competition rules, specifically around entry requirements for the club championship, have been challenged, despite the fact they were reviewed and relaxed significantly in 2025 to facilitate entry. It was agreed to consult with players who were likely to compete in the	HR

	scratch rounds in order to get their views. The Committee can then consider their feedback and whether the rules need further adjustment for 2027.	
11. Golf Empire – iGolfers and our Open Competitions	After a brief discussion it was agreed we would not allow I-Golfers to enter our Open. Lesley to advise Golf Empire on her return from holiday.	Lesley
12. May Open 2027	Date for 2027 agreed – 14 th May. JA to notify Geoff Ward so the men can choose another Friday in May for their Seniors' Open and Dale to reserve the tee. HR to note this for next year's fixture list. Lesley to notify Geoff Ward/Golf Empire in September when details of the event are finalised.	JA/HR/Lesley
13. Forthcoming Events	(a) <u>Invitation Day</u>: All is in hand. Set up on Tuesday evening around 6.30pm. Volunteers to help Kate are Janet, Lorna and Gillian. (b) <u>Picnic</u>: The balance has been paid. EH and GC to have a meeting to finalise teams etc	KK/JA/Lorna/GC EH/GC
14. A.O.B.	(a) Joan Fishwick's 90th Birthday – 12th January 2027. An outline plan will be discussed at the next meeting and a date agreed. Joan will then be asked "To Save The Date" (b) GC had received an email from Jayne Murray, suggesting prize money could be reduced in order that the WS made more profit on the event. It was agreed that we do not currently need to increase our income in this way, and offering generous prizes was a way to increase participation in the event. GC to notify Jayne accordingly.	
15. Date of Next Meeting	3 rd August 2026 – apologies from Janet Ayres	

The meeting ended at 9.08 p.m.